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Disgrace: The enormous cost of litter and graffiti

How we foot the bill for clearing up our streets

MILLIONS of pounds of taxpayers' money is being spent clearing up after lazy litter louts, graffiti vandals and selfish dog owners.

As the county tackles financial hardship, with councils making deep spending cuts to crucial services, some people are still flouting basic social etiquette – such as putting rubbish in the bin – with the bill dealing with this problem rising year on year.

EXCLUSIVE By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

And it means a cost burden we all have to bear.

This newspaper asked district and borough councils across Kent how much they spend on anti-social behaviour, focusing on litter, graffiti and dog fouling, to see how bad the problem is.

And the results were shocking, with the town halls that responded each showing figures more than £1 million for 2011/12, putting the county's total bill at around £15m – and the final cost could be even greater.

Remarkably, the cost the county pays to clear up after the inconsiderate equates to footing the salary bill of 700 NHS nurses, or fixing 300,000 potholes in our roads.

Continued on page 2

MARRIAGE

Couples steer clear of 2013

WEDDING venues across the county say they have seen a drop in bookings for next year – and they blame superstitious couples anxious not to tie the knot in a year with the number '13' in it.

Some popular sites say they have seen a 10 per cent drop as a result. **PAGE 3**

ROYAL

Kate baby in heir debate

AS the Duchess of Cambridge recovers this weekend following a stint in hospital after suffering severe morning sickness, her pregnancy has reignited the debate over the heir to the throne rules.

We speak to experts inside to get their views on historic proposed changes. **PAGE 14**

SPORT

Amazing life of Games hero

ROGER Bannister collapsed into his arms after running the first mile under four minutes, he ran in the Olympics and then had a career in the Church and for Kent County Council.

Read the remarkable story of the Rev Nicholas Stacey inside this weekend's sports section. **PAGE 54**

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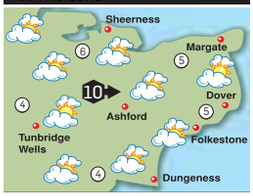
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Weather



TODAY: Dry with spells of wintry sunshine. Cold with a fresh wind. Max temp 5-8C (41-46F). **TONIGHT:** Clear spells, but breezy. Min temp 0-3C (32-37F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	06.35	5.9	19.09	5.9
Margate	07.18	4.2	20.08	4.3
St Mary's	00.11	4.7	12.39	4.9

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 6C	Min -1C
Tuesday	Max 5C	Min -1C
Wednesday	Max 3C	Min -2C
Thursday	Max 3C	Min -1C
Friday	Max 3C	Min -1C
Saturday	Max 3C	Min -1C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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AIRPORT CAMPAIGN

People power will have little influence on final decision on airport, warns regeneration group

By Marijke Cox
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CAMPAIGNERS pushing for regeneration in the county have warned that local people will have little say over plans for a hub airport in the Thames Estuary.

Demand Regeneration in North Kent (Drink) released a report It's Our Future that claims not one of the top 31 objections to the airport will be strong enough to kill the project.

It states it is unlikely local people will have much influence on whether the plan is given the green light and so – if it does go ahead – the community must be ready to fight for the best deal, such as ring-fencing affordable housing and jobs for local people, proper compensation for those in the pathway and investment in better roads and environment.

The group compiled the paper by examining all the main objections and interviewing people involved; both for and against.

It stated a new hub airport in the estuary could create several hundred jobs and stamp out poverty in north Kent.

Campaign director Clive Lawrence said there were answers to every doubt.

"This means the way is open for the project to go ahead. If it does, it'll be as though north Kent's scooped the pot in a massive rollover lottery," he said.

"The only thing standing in the way locally is the intransigence of politicians who think that taking a negative stand will get them re-elected next time.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us. We should let nothing stand in its way."

Drink said this was not about an airport, but how to secure a better life for local people.

An independent review into aviation capacity is currently being held, led by Sir Howard Davies, but results are not due before the General Election in 2015.

Anti-airport campaigners remain confident, however, they can fight the plans.

One of their main arguments is that such a development would destroy an internationally protected area as well as the risk of bird strike from the thousands of migrating birds each year.

Joan Darwell, from Friends of the North Kent Marshes – who helped successfully fight an airport plan in the area 10 years ago – said: "All evidence shows the Thames Estuary is the wrong place. This was presented when we fought against the Cliffe plans and nothing has changed.

"We're confident the EU protection over the marsh habitat will never be overcome. There is no need for expansion anywhere. There needs to be better connectivity between existing airports."

Medway Council is also opposed to the plans.

A spokesman for the Conservative Group said: "Medway Council's long-held views are well known and will be included as part of a submission to the Davies Commission, which is due to issue an interim report in 2013."

'Community is the key' to stopping this expensive problem

Continued fron front page

Canterbury City Council was one of the highest spending local authorities, forced to spend £1,707,234 in 2011/12, on cleaning up litter and dog fouling, graffiti and fly-tipping. This figure had risen from the previous two years.

Maidstone was close behind, spending £1,455,343.

A spokeswoman said the cost included all aspects of cleaning such as mechanical sweeping, litter picking, litter bin emptying, fly-tip removal, dog mess and graffiti removal.

She explained: "We have an environmental enforcement team to act against people who commit such crimes. This includes a strict policy of enforcement against people who drop litter, which is a key component of our approach to tackling the source of littering and the associated costs to the taxpayer."

Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council said it spends more than £1m of taxpayers' money each year cleaning the streets and clearing rubbish dumpted by fly-tippers.

There is also a budget of £10,000 set aside each year for graffiti removal.

Gravesham Borough Council said anti-social behaviour cost the town hall just over £1m a year.

A spokesman said: "A lot of time and money is spent on avoiding problems.

"For instance, updating litter bins and providing containers for cigarette ends in town centres would be something we have to spend money on before we mounted any sustained campaign to stop people dropping fag ends."

£15M COULD PAY FOR

850 carers for ill, frail or disabled people for a year

36,674 free school meals to disadvantaged children for a year

300,000 potholes to be fixed

714 bobbies on the beat

700 NHS nurses

(These figures are approximate)

In Dover, the cost of clearing up such a mess has risen in each of the last three years, from £1m in 2009/10 to £1.3m in 2011/12, although the council said costs included normal cleansing activities such as road sweeping and weed clearance.

Sevenoaks council was unable to give a breakdown figure as its total street cleaning budget pays for litter collection, but it spent almost £5,000 on graffiti removal over the last three years.

A spokeswoman said a programme called the Grimebuster Project, where people on community service orders remove graffiti around the district, is used to help people clean spray paint off their properties.

If unitary Medway Council, which was unable to respond, had revealed its figure, it could potentially add further millions to the total bill.

The Carnegie UK Trust, a charity working to improve the lives and wellbeing of people living throughout the UK, has been encouraging community-led projects to improve the problem.

The charity worked with the Bredhurst Woodland Action Group, near Maidstone, to help protect woodland at risk from commercial-scale fly-tipping and off-road driving.

The trust is working to continue such community projects, which it says are key to tackling incivilities.

Senior policy officer for the trust, Douglas White, said: "Local environmental problems such as litter, fly-tipping and criminal damage can be a major blight on many communities.

"They have a really negative effect on people's health, their sense of security, and what they think about the area where they live.

"They are also hugely expensive for local authorities and other organisations that have to clean them up.

"But while local communities can play a leading role in solving these problems they must not be expected to deal with these challenges by themselves.

"Environmental charities, local authorities and funding bodies all need to help communities to make the changes they want.

"The community is the key – but the right support is crucial."

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MARRIAGE

Aisle be damned: Some superstitious couples put off a 2013 wedding

EXCLUSIVE By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

WEDDING venues across the county are reporting a drop in bookings for next year as superstitious couples opt out of getting married in 2013.

In some cases, venues are seeing reductions of as much as 10 per cent as blushing brides planning the perfect day go to great lengths to avoid any mishaps – even waiting an extra year to walk down the aisle.

And all because couples appear to believe in the number 13 being 'unlucky for some'.

The holiday industry is already aware of how the number can have an impact on business, with many travellers opting not to fly on the 13th of the month.

In a new twist, it seems doting couples are anxious too.

Penshurst Place and Gardens, near Tonbridge, which was awarded the Kent Wedding Venue of the Year Award last year, said 2012 was its strongest year ever for wedding bookings.

A spokesman for its banqueting and events team said: "We have had a few couples comment they are not booking for 2013 because of the number 13, but we have found, maybe as a result, that 2014 bookings are well up on what we would expect at this point, which is really encouraging.

A spokeswoman for wedding venue Cooling Castle in Rochester said: "We're quite well booked up, but compared to previous years there has been a slight drop for 2013.

"It's each to their own; for some people that kind of thing matters."

One Canterbury venue, which wished to remain anonymous, confided bookings were down 10 per cent; due in part to superstitious couples.

Others, however, believed any drop could be for more pragmatic reasons.

An event spokesman at Knowlton Court in Canterbury explained: "There has been a drop here which may have something to do with it being 2013, but then there are just so many places to get married in Kent so that could be a factor too."

Sales manager at Maidstone's Best Western Russell Hotel, Liane Bayliss, added: "It's a possibility this is putting people off getting married next year. I would also put it down to people trying to save their pennies; many people just don't have the money to get married."

Event organisers at Hever Castle, near Edenbridge, admitted they had been worried earlier this year that superstitions would run high for

KOS 2013

Concerns plate will deter new car sales

CAR dealers have long been aware of potential problems when it comes to shifting new cars next year, when the number plates change to '13.

Earlier this year, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) confirmed motorists concerned would have the choice to revert to a '62-plate if they were superstitious.

However, with '62 assigned to cars purchased from September this year, and the '13 plates coming out in March, there are concerns those opting to avoid the 'unlucky' 13 could find they miss out on resale values as it will suggest the car is older than it actually is.

In Afghanistan last year, there were problems when a new plate came out bearing the number '39. It is a number associated with prostitution in the country, and prompted sales to dip and angry motorists to fork out for different numbers.



SLICE OF LUCK: Wedding venues have seen drop 2013 causing a reduction in bookings.

A spokeswoman said: "We were a bit concerned about 2013, but figures are looking good. People aren't booking so far ahead now too, so we're expecting an influx early next year for the same year."

■ **Does the year 2013 set your superstitious anxieties tingling – or is it just nonsense? Let us know. Email: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or write to: KOS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS.**

HEALTH

Give the ultimate gift this Yuletide by donating blood and saving a life

FEAR of the typical drop in blood donations over the festive period has prompted health chiefs to issue a plea to the public to continue to donate.

Every year supplies dwindle over Christmas as people become busy with preparations and seeing loved ones.

NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) said while it was easy to forget appointments to give blood, hospital patients needed transfusions during the festive period just as much as any other time of the year.

Health bosses stressed that while many people will be out celebrating with friends and family, others will spend December receiving cancer treatment or undergoing lifesaving surgery and emergency care.

NHSBT lead donor relations manager, John Canning, said: "While we appreciate people are often very busy shopping for presents and planning get-togethers at this time of the year, donated blood is needed just as much as ever in December.

"As a result, we are appealing for people here to show warm hearts by taking just a little time out to give blood this Christmas.

"We are particularly keen for younger people and those who haven't given blood before to get in touch so that they can become the lifesavers of the future."

This winter, the NHS is also aiming to recruit 100,000 new donors in 100 days to protect future blood stocks.

Every year new donors are needed to replace existing ones who drop out of the system, but this year the need is more urgent after a dramatic decline in the number of younger donors signing up.

For those wanting to roll up their sleeves to give blood contact 0300 123 23 23 or visit www.blood.co.uk to book an appointment.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Car ploughs into duo

TWO women were this weekend fighting for their lives after a motorist fell ill at the wheel of his car, and ploughed into them as they walked along a seaside esplanade.

The incident happened on Tuesday in Sandgate, near Folkestone.

The car, driven by a man in his 50s, mounted the pavement and hit the women. He died at the scene. The two victims were taken to hospitals in London and Ashford.

Drug factories busted

NEARLY 900 cannabis plants with a street value of £360,000 were found in police raids.

Officers searched properties in Watling Street, Strood; Grove Road, Northfleet; and Cowper Road in Murston, near Sittingbourne, and discovered cannabis factories before dismantling them.

Police say they are conducting full investigations into all three cases. Anyone with information should contact police on 101.

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FIRE

One week on from Channel Tunnel fire drama, investigation is under way into what sparked a major alert

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

Picture: WWW.TWITTER.COM/KENT_999S



BLACK SPOT: This picture shows the freight train in the distance with smoke bellowing from the lorry

EUROTUNNEL chiefs say they are waiting on the findings of a probe by French authorities into the blaze which caused major disruption to the cross-Channel route.

Terrified travellers were left in shock on November 29, after they spotted the train emerging from the French side of the tunnel, at Coquelles near Calais, with a lorry alight and plumes of black smoke.

The news quickly spread via online social networking website Twitter, prompting fears of a major incident.

But it appears safety procedures kicked in quickly and the fire was swiftly dealt with.

However, all services were suspended while the tunnel was cleared of smoke, preventing both Eurostar and Le Shuttle services.

This week, as a full investigation began, Eurotunnel were quick to point out the fire was not caused by any tunnel issue, and that the route remained safe.

The alarm was first raised at around 1pm when smoke alarms sounded at the French end of the north tunnel.

The fire was identified to be on a HGV train which transports freight vehicles. The train was stopped then diverted to an emergency siding where the French Fire and Rescue Service was called to put out the blaze.

All 36 lorry drivers were evacuated from the train through a door and then taken away by bus. There were 29 trucks on the train.

The incident caused delays to passengers after Eurostar suspended its services and there were hold-ups on the M20 at junction 11A.

John Keefe, from Eurotunnel, said they do not know why the fire started and the French Accident Investigation Bureau and emergency services will investigate to piece it together.

He said: "We won't know the cause until they make that public."

Mr Keefe added that Eurotunnel had launched an internal investigation to look at whether it could have been stopped sooner and also whether the procedures worked.

He said: "Trucks catch fire. There are all kinds of things that happen. It's not a tunnel related thing, it's a truck related issue."

Mr Keefe said the fire could have been caused by anything from an electrical fault to tyres overheating.

He said: "Given that we carry 1.2-1.3 million trucks a year, it's inevitable that at some point we will have one catch fire."

Mr Keefe assured that there are extensive procedures to deal with such incidents.

He said: "We are always as prepared as we can possibly be."

After last week's fire there was no damage left to the tunnel, but smoke had to be cleared before it could be reopened.

...AND IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME THIS HAS HAPPENED

LAST week's fire was the fourth to take place in the Channel Tunnel since it opened in 1994. All four occurred on HGV trains carrying trucks and their drivers.

November 18, 1996: A fire rages for more than seven hours after a train carrying a burning lorry enters the English end and stops 19km into the tunnel. Truck drivers were treated in a French hospital, but there were, miraculously, no serious injuries.

However, the probe following the fire and repairs to 500 metres of damaged track, meant the tunnel remained closed for six months.

August 21, 2006: Similiar to November's incident, a truck on an HGV caught fire. There were no injuries or damage and the tunnel reopened within hours.

September 11, 2008: Some 11km from the French tunnel entrance, a fire started on an HGV train. Several people received hospital treatment for minor injuries and the tunnel closed for two days.

The undamaged south tunnel reopened, offering a restricted service for five months.

The blaze was so intense tracks melted and temperatures reached 1,000 degrees Centigrade. The repair bill was £48 million.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Drink drive campaign

THE annual crackdown on drink driving over the Christmas season has been launched by Kent Police.

It forms part of the force's Stay Safe This Winter campaign.

Kent County Council's Stephen Horton, who attended the launch, said: "It's not how much alcohol it takes to make you dangerous, its how little. There is no way to know when you're over the drink drive limit, Drink driving wrecks lives."

More 4x4s are stolen

OWNERS of 4x4s are once again being told to ensure their vehicles are properly secured following a spate of recent thefts.

Three were stolen last weekend - in Maidstone, Ashford and Selling near Faversham. It comes just a week after officers issued a warning in the Ashford area after more than 10 reported thefts in recent weeks.

Police say owners should, where possible, boost security and fit a tracking device.

Tesco change plans

SUPERMARKET giant Tesco has agreed to change the look of a proposed new store in Westgate-on-Sea after a barrage of complaints.

Campaign group the Victorian Society, and local residents, had opposed the look of the Express store saying it did not suit its surroundings.

As a result of the pressure, the chain agreed it would submit altered plans.

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- Fresh figs in vintage port sauce topped with rocket & Roquefort salad
- Cured meat platter, homemade pickles served with olive tapenade & avocado mayonnaise
- Mussels, prawns & cockles cooked in garlic, chilli & white wine sauce served in orange basket
- Finely sliced warm smoked duck served with butternut squash quenelle & grand marnier sauce
- Portobello mushroom stuffed with ratatouille topped with shaved parmesan (V)

:: Main Courses ::

- Traditional sage onion stuffed roast TURKEY with all the trimmings
- Sirloin steak served with creamy three colour peppercorns jus
- Partridge with mushroom & crunchy chestnut red wine wild sauce
- Hake supreme with lobster & dill sauce
- Noisette of lamb, potato & almond rosti served with rosemary & lamb jus
- Asparagus, wild mushroom & peas (V) (Risotto OR fresh tagliatelle)

All main courses served with selection of chef's vegetables & potatoes

:: Deserts ::

(Choose your desert from the A la Carte menu)

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Pictures: ADY KERRY





CHRISTMAS TREAT: There is a specific time of year when the various types of game can be killed

FOOD

Game birds prove a hit as chefs and stars say they are a menu treat



By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

A SEASON of great Kentish tradition has kicked off in recent weeks, but it's not the upcoming Christmas festivities which have got the county talking.

It is game season in the culinary world with both chefs and diners turning to wild, natural and free-range meats for their winter dishes.

Wild rabbits, pheasant, grouse, ducks and even venison will be on the menu as a winter alternative to the pork, beef and lamb.

The lean meats, which are low in cholesterol and high in protein, have become very popular in recent years as people look to stick to a low-fat diet ahead of the inevitable over indulgence during Christmas.

Each animal has its own specific shooting season dates which generally run across the autumn and winter months when the game is at its best. A curfew on the shooting season is also used to avoid over hunting and doing too much damage to the wildlife population.

Among the fans of the meats is MasterChef presenter Gregg Wallace.

The Whitstable star said: "I'm so impressed with all the game dishes people are cooking – it's very inspiring. We are in the middle of a fantastic game season.

"Game meat has a delicious rich grown-up taste. My favourite has to be partridge and I regularly cook a fantastic recipe given to me by Michel Roux Jnr, but game is a delicious wild, nutritious meat that can be used in anything from curries, stir fries, casseroles and pies."

Game-to-Eat is a campaign backed by the Countryside Alliance, and designed to highlight the benefits of game. It says, nationwide, game is stocked in some 10,000 butchers and retailers, as its popularity spreads.

Alex Windebank, is head chef at the Michelin recommended The Plough at Stalisfield Green, between Faversham and Ashford.

He said: "We're now in the middle of the game season and so far it has been very productive.

"I always go simple when it comes to using game in dishes as the flavours are great as they are. I avoid going over the top as it can put people off.

"Everyone should give game a try because at the end of the day much of it is considered a sport and the birds are pretty much a bi-product, so they should definitely not be wasted."



IN SEASON...

FOR those looking to get involved with the tradition there is still time.

Pheasant season is between October and February, while partridge, duck and goose starts in September closing in late January.

Hare is available a little longer, from August to February, while rules on hunting deer change from county to county around the UK depending on availability.

For more information, visit the Game Farmers' Association website at www.gfa.org.uk.

OPPONENTS...

ALTHOUGH the tradition of game hunting goes back generations, animal campaign groups strongly oppose it.

The League Against Cruel Sports claim too much wildlife is killed as a result of game shoots, and the killing is more of a sport than for food.

They also claim much of the game shot are from farmed creatures or those imported from abroad.

See www.league.org.uk.

ENTERTAINMENT

Superstar Naomi's water torment during filming of tsunami movie

MOVIE star Naomi Watts was left fuming after a technical fault left her trapped underwater during the filming of her latest movie.

The 44-year-old, who was born in Shoreham, near Sevenoaks, is the star of big screen hits such as the re-make of King Kong and Mulholland Drive.

But she found herself caught up in a real life drama during the shooting of The Impossible, a movie about the tsunami disaster in Thailand in 2004.

The film, which also stars Ewan McGregor, tells the real life story of survivor Maria Belon and her family.

Many of the scenes were shot in Spain, using giant water tanks to re-create the dramatic ocean scenes.

The actress told entertainment site AwardsLine.com: "The underwater stuff was incredibly difficult, and I did not like that at all. It's always nerve-racking holding your breath.

"But we were anchored into a chair with weights on us to keep us down."

She added: "You had the oxygen tank right there up until the cameras rolled.

"There was one point when I was about to get out of the chair, and I couldn't get out. It was a technical problem, and it really freaked me out.

"I remember being really angry when I came out of the water because it just made me panic."

The movie is due to hit the big screen in the UK later this month.

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CRIME

‘Restorative justice’ plays key role as child arrest figures drop

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A DRAMATIC drop in the number of children in the county being arrested by police has been applauded by a leading penal reform charity.

Despite the figure still remaining high – with 123 children under the age of 17 being arrested every week across Kent – numbers have dropped significantly on recent years.

In 2008, the number of arrests stood at 10,157. In 2011, the most recent figures available, it had plunged to 6,409.

The Howard League for Penal Reform, which obtained the statistics, said more often than not children who get into trouble are just “challenging teenagers” and that only a handful are involved in serious crime.

The charity praised Kent Police for the drop in arrests.

Central custody Chief Inspector Mark Chambers said reasons for the decrease involved several factors.

He explained: “There are more alternatives available to police now such as restorative practises. These involve dealing with a crime report in a way that best meets the needs of the victim.

“This might not result in an arrest, but could include the offender apologising directly to those affected by their behaviour or making good the damage caused, by payment or repair.”



TOUGH: Child arrests have seen major fall

He said the law also required police to justify every arrest.

“This might include the need to search a person’s home and for some young people the permission to search may be granted by their parent or guardian so an arrest may not always be necessary to facilitate this requirement.

“Moreover, the necessity to arrest might arise from the need to protect a victim of crime from a suspect and this can vary in frequency between adults and children.”

He stressed that every arrest required an individual decision by the arresting officer based on the circumstances of the incident.

The Howard League hailed the 37 per cent drop in Kent as a huge success.

Chief Executive of the charity, Frances Crook, said she hoped the trend continued.

She said: “How we respond to this nuisance behaviour could make a difference for the rest of their lives. An arrest can blight a life and lead to a criminal record for just being naughty. The positive change in policing children will release resources to deal with real crimes.

“Only a handful of children are involved in more serious incidents and they usually suffer from neglect, abuse or mental health issues. A commitment to public safety means treating them as vulnerable children and making sure they get the help they need to mature into law-abiding citizens.”

She said under the last government, police success was measured by the number of arrests and children proved a “seductive way” to make up the numbers.

Last year, nationwide there were more than 209,000 arrests of boys and girls aged 17 and under. This number includes 2,117 arrests of children aged 10 or 11.



CHARITY

‘Sold’ White Cliffs shine light on issue

AN ENORMOUS ‘sold’ sign was beamed onto the White Cliffs of Dover this week, as Oxfam looked to raise awareness of what it dubs ‘land grabs’ in developing countries.

It says the practice leaves poor people in Africa, Asia and Latin America homeless and without access to the land they rely on to grow food and make a living.

Dover was among a number of sites which had ‘sold’ signs erected by the charity.

Oxfam’s Lisa Rutherford said: “With land the size of Kent being sold off every 13 days in the world’s poorest countries, more and more poor people are at risk of having their land grabbed from beneath their feet.

“They often happen with no prior consultation; imagine being thrown off your land without warning, finding yourself homeless, landless, penniless and at risk of violence.”

The image, pictured, was obtained by using projectors set up at Samphire Hoe.

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TELEVISION

School ready to become centre of the universe by hosting Stargazing Live

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

STARGAZERS across the county are set to flock to a school's astronomy centre as it plays host to BBC TV cameras for the return to our screens of the hugely popular Stargazing Live.

The programme proved one of the surprise hits of last year, with a stellar response to the informative show - hosted by Professor Brian Cox and science-loving comedian Dara O'Briain - from both professionals and amateurs alike.

And this year Canterbury will be taking centre stage, with the south east event being held at the Langton Star Centre at Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys on the evening of January 8.

The Langton evening is just one of a country-wide network of events, bringing together astronomical societies, museums and discovery centres, country parks and local authorities.

They include planetarium shows, rocket-making, star parties, alien activities and night-time star cruises as well as topical talks and discussions contributing to a national stargazing celebration.

Simon Langton was specially chosen because of its equipment, including its own observatory, star centre and lecture theatre.

Director of the centre, Dr Becky Parker, said they will be aiming high on the night.

"We hope to see planets, Jupiter, Uranus and deep space objects such as our nearest galaxy, Andromeda," she said. "We will also look at the Orion Nebula in Orion's sword, which is an area of new star formation.

"Exploring the skies and everything about it is important because we want to understand the amazing world in which we live and appreciate the wider universe of which we are a part."

Dr Parker, head of physics at Simon Langton, is a well-respected name in science. Earlier this year she won the first Royal Astronomical Society Patrick Moore Medal in recognition of her outstanding work as a teacher of astronomy.

Dr Parker said the evening will also include free family activities and a live link up with a Nasa astronaut.

She added: "We are just hoping for clear skies."

The Langton Star Centre inspires students in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics by giving them opportunities to work alongside scientists and engineers and take part in original, innovative research.

Last year, more than 113,000 people took part in Stargazing Live events around the UK.





HEAVEN SENT: Professor Brian Cox (right) will host the popular BBC programme from Simon Langton



REGISTER FOR TICKETS

TO run alongside the shows, there are free Star Guides and special Star Party packs for home use to download at www.bbc.co.uk/stargazing.

There are also hundreds of other events and activities happening across the country, with a list at www.bbc.co.uk/thingstodo.

Entry to Simon Langton is free, but it is a ticketed event. Tickets are available by random draw until December 11 from the BBC. To register visit www.bbc.co.uk/showsandtours.



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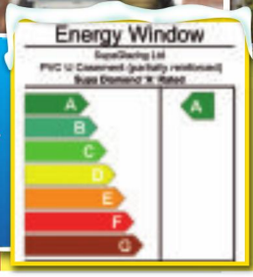








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ECONOMICS

Chancellor's Autumn Statement brings little festive cheer for our hard-hit businesses

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A LEADING voice from the county's business community has admitted the economic state of the country is "a bit scary" following Chancellor George Osborne's Autumn Statement on Wednesday.

Roger House, chairman of the Kent and Medway branch of the Federation of Small Businesses, said there were some positives to be drawn from Wednesday's address to MPs – such as a cut in corporation tax – but admitted it was dominated by concern.

He said: "The first thing I felt is just how grim it is economically – that state we are in is a bit scary, I suppose."

One change will see more people pay the 40p rate of income tax and wealthier pensioners will get less tax relief.

However, a planned 3p rise in petrol duty has been scrapped, corporation tax cut and the tax-free personal allowance raised, but child benefit increased at less than the rate of inflation.

Mr House said: "I'm impressed he's cancelled the rise in fuel duty, and the cut in corporation tax is welcome.

"He has also helped people who are not earning a lot of money.

"In the case of the higher tax bracket, I don't know how many people in the business community I am part of earn more than £41,000 – but I'm guessing it's not many."

Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP Gordon Henderson said: "In a week in which we have seen more job losses in my constituency, the decision to scrap the proposed 3p per litre planned for by the previous Labour government is much needed boost not only for private motorists, but also hard pressed companies."



DECISIONS: George Osborne's Autumn Statement this week highlighted just how bad the economy still is for companies

■ **For the latest business news across Kent, turn to our business pages.**

MUSIC

Blondie confirmed for big Bedgebury show

LEGENDARY rockers Blondie have confirmed they will headline a show at Bedgebury next summer.

The group, fronted by Debbie Harry, will perform as part of the Forestry Commission's Forest Live tour on June 22.

They will be supported by The Lightning Seeds. Tickets cost £36 and went on general sale on Friday.

RETAIL

Farmers' market to be 'the biggest yet'

SHOPPERS will flock to the Tonbridge Farmers' Market this weekend as it stages its final event of the year.

More than 85 stalls means it will be the biggest of its 19 markets, and takes place this Sunday, December 9, in Sovereign Way.

Stalls are open from 9.30am to 1.30pm.

The market takes place on the second Sunday of every month.

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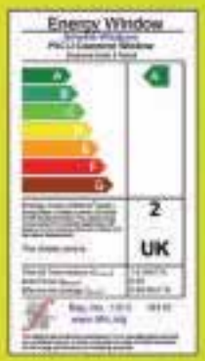
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ROYALS

Regal move to change heir to the throne rules welcomed by experts

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AS THE national media ponder whether the Duchess of Cambridge could in fact be expecting twins, after confirming this week she was pregnant, the discussion has now turned to rules on succession to the throne.

The Duchess spent much of this week in hospital suffering from acute morning sickness, leading some to speculate there could be more than one royal baby on the way.

All of which would further complicate the rules which, traditionally, have seen the first male in line for the throne.

But this week it was confirmed the centuries-old protocol was set to change, with all 16 Commonwealth countries agreeing there should be equality in who becomes monarch.

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg confirmed he was now finalising making the decision law.

Currently Prince Charles is in line to replace the Queen, followed by Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge. As laws stand now, if his wife gave birth to a daughter first, then a son, the boy would automatically become heir.

Heather Collingwood is a sociology lecturer at MidKent College. She said the succession changes are important, but should have been done centuries ago.

She told us: "The royal family should be commended for taking on the responsibility for changing this long-standing tradition that has been part of our royal heritage for hundreds of years.

"It is long overdue. There have been legislative changes made in wider society like the Equality Act 2010, which makes it illegal for someone to be discriminated against on the basis on their gender in the working environment.

"It is good they've done it now, but it should have been undertaken long ago.

"It's quite difficult changing traditions especially in old institutions like the monarchy."

And she said a good example of being out of touch is the Church's refusal of women bishops.

She said: "It's a shame we can't see all institutions like this following the same patterns of society in general."

Former royal correspondent of the Sun, Harry Arnold, who now lives in Aldington, added: "These changes are long overdue – it's time there was some sexual equality on this sort of thing.

"It will be the first time a first-born daughter becomes monarch no matter what happens after that, and how many sons they have.

"Two of our greatest monarchs have been women – Elizabeth I and Elizabeth II.

"There has been talk about doing this in royal circles over the years. I don't think there was any one thing that sparked actually making the change. It was all part of a general modernisation of the monarchy in Britain."

Name game begins for Kate and Wills

FORMER national newspaper royal correspondent Harry Arnold says he is confident what the names of the Duchess' child will be – whether it is a boy or a girl.

Mr Arnold, who worked for the Sun for many years, developing a close relationship with many of the senior royals, now lives in Aldington, near Ashford.

He explained: "My betting is a girl will be called Elizabeth, because Diana, of course, is not a Queen-y name, and you know what the Royals are like, they are very traditional. And if it's a boy, it will be called George after his great grandfather."

He believes the announcement this week was forced because of Kate's hospitalisation.

He said: "The royal family does usually like to wait before making an announcement in case it all does go wrong.

"But once she went in to hospital, their hand was forced. My guess is they would have liked to have waited another month."

Kate, 30, was taken ill during a visit to her parents on Friday following an official trip to her former prep school St Andrew's.

She was admitted to the King Edward VII Hospital in central London suffering from hyperemesis gravidarum – severe vomitting during pregnancy.



JOY: Kate and William's child will be monarch



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2) William, Duke of Cambridge
3) William & Kate's child
4) Prince Harry
5) Prince Andrew
6) Princess Beatrice
7) Princess Eugenie
8) Prince Edward
9) Lady Louise Windsor
10) Princess Anne



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AWARDS

10-year-old nominated for charity 'Oscar' after his tireless fundraising

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

AN INSPIRATIONAL 10-year-old has been nominated for a prestigious award after he helped to raise thousands of pounds for a cancer charity.

Jonjo Heuerman, from Wilmington near Dartford, is one of three finalists in the National Campaigner of the Year category at the Spirit of London Awards (Sola).

Dubbed the 'community youth Oscars' the awards ceremony takes place at the O2 Arena on Monday, and is organised by the Damiola Trust – an organisation set up in the memory of the 10-year-old schoolboy who died after being stabbed on his way home in Peckham.

Since his grandmother passed away from bowel cancer in 2007, Jonjo has campaigned tirelessly to raise funds for the Bobby Moore Fund which supports research into the disease and was set up in the memory of the legendary West Ham and 1966 World Cup winning England captain.

The youngster has worked with Mr Moore's widow Stephanie to raise awareness of the disease by taking part in sponsored walks and through television appearances.

Like Jonjo's grandmother Lyn, Mr Moore died of bowel cancer in 1993.

After Lyn's death, Jonjo's sister Megan, 15, decided she wanted to try and raise money for cancer research.

Then Jonjo, not to be outdone by his sibling, joined in with the fundraising and even took part in a 27-mile walk from Wembley Stadium to West Ham United where he has a season ticket.

Next year, to mark the 20th anniversary year of the football legend's death, Jonjo will be organising a tag team to travel to all 92 professional football clubs in the UK.

He has managed to raise a total of £90,000 for the charity and his campaigning to raise awareness has proved invaluable.

His mother Donna said: "I was absolutely blown away when I found out he had been nominated. I am really proud. He's such a cheeky chap. They call him the 'Pied Piper of the East End' because wherever he walks people follow."

Last week, Jonjo and the other finalists met Prime Minister David Cameron at Downing Street as part of the build up to the awards.

His mother said: "Jonjo was so excited to meet him. The Prime Minister made a fuss of him and was playful with him."



PIED PIPER OF EAST END: Jonjo Heuerman

The Sola awards were created in 2009, as a legacy to all youths who have lost their lives to violence in London and aim to show how much inspirational young people are valued. It includes categories such as Achievement Through Sport and Young Business Entrepreneur.

This year will be a star-studded event with singer Labrinth, pop band McFly and Britain's Got Talent winners dance troupe Diversity taking to the stage to perform.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Empty homes plan

A CONSULTATION period is under way in Tunbridge Wells over proposals which could bring some of the 1,200 empty homes in the borough back into use.

The local council wants to hear the views on the proposals from those living in the borough, with the consultation period running up until January 7.

To take part in the process and find out more, see www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/emptyhomes.

Tributes to councillor

TRIBUTES have been paid to former Gravesham councillor Frank Marven who died recently. He was 84.

The Tory served as a borough councillor for 37 years and was Mayor of Gravesham between 1982-83.

Council leader John Burden said: "Although we were political opponents, Frank often worked with us for the good of the people of the borough. He was a true gentleman."

Picking up top award

A GROUP of volunteers from East Malling who have made it their purpose to keep their village litter-free for the last five years picked up more than just rubbish this week.

They collected top prize in the environment category of the Telegraph National British Volunteers Awards, and picked up the gong and a cheque for £500 at a special ceremony in London..





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CELEBRITY

Cleese classic car set to sell in online auction with lunch thrown in

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

LEGENDARY comedy star John Cleese is giving fans the chance to buy his 1987 Bentley in an online auction which concludes this weekend.

The luxury car has sat unused in a friend's garage in Goudhurst for the past year – and at the time of going to press was already attracting bids in excess of £16,000. Offered on auction website eBay, bidding for the Bentley Eight ends this Sunday.



To further tempt would-be buyers, Mr Cleese is also throwing in the opportunity to have lunch with him in London and a signed print of the famous scene in Fawlty Towers where he gives another car – a Morris 1100 – "a damn good thrashing".

Mr Cleese said: "Twenty-five years on, it [the Bentley] is a little faded and needs some TLC to restore it to its natural beauty, including some attention to the battle scars from a quarrel with a gate post the last time I drove it.

"But it remains a fabulous car to drive and is the most beautiful car I have ever owned. It has been utterly reliable and it also removed any sense of haste from my life. You don't drive it, you guide it. Yet, if you need a moment of acceleration, the power surges like a battleship."

The car has more than 73,500 miles on the clock and an MoT which runs out next November.

The highest bidder will also get a handwritten letter signed by Mr Cleese about the car and some of its famous passengers, including Jamie Lee Curtis and Kevin Kline.

Both starred alongside Mr Cleese in the 1988 hit movie A Fish Called Wanda.

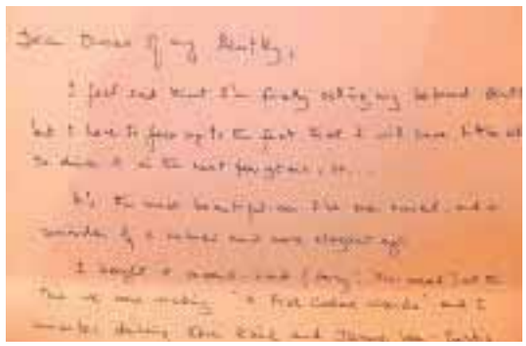
Peter Spicer, from The Original Memorabilia Company, which is promoting the sale, said: "The response has been absolutely fantastic. It's not surprising because he is a superstar and everybody is interested in what he does.

"He has had this car in storage for more than a year now and it is not being used.

"He is living in Monaco so it just makes sense to get rid of it.

"Most people are more interested in having lunch with him than the car."





BIDDING WAR: John Cleese's letter says who has been in the car

BASIL TO BOND

JOHN Cleese has long been established as one of the UK's top comedy performers and writers.

From the explosion of Monty Python onto TV screens in 1969 – and its big screen outings including The Life of Brian – he went on to create perhaps his finest character; the irate Basil Fawlty.

The Torquay hotel owner continues to be hailed as one of Britain's greatest comedy series ever. In the 1980s he enjoyed a revival with the hugely popular A Fish Called Wanda movie and in the 90s appeared as gadget king Q in the James Bond movies.

Last year, he returned to the stage for what he dubbed 'The Alimony Tour' – a reference to his recent divorce which saw him ordered to pay £13 million as a settlement.

Mr Cleese's long-time writing partner was fellow Python Graham Chapman who died at Maidstone Hospital in 1989. Cleese was at his bedside.

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HISTORY

Archaeological experts hail 'exciting find' after treasure hunter uncovers rare Iron Age helmet

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk





IMPORTANT: State-of-the-art laser scanner technology was used by experts to date the bronze helmet found on farmland near Canterbury

AN AMATEUR treasure hunter, armed with a metal detector, has unearthed one of only four helmets in the world that date back as far as 1BC.

The significant discovery was uncovered on farmland near Canterbury two months ago. It is believed to be from the buried remains of a soldier cremated around the time the Romans first arrived.

Now experts from the department of classical and archaeological studies at the University of Kent have helped to confirm its historical importance.

It is made of bronze and was discovered alongside a brooch by the treasure hunter, who wishes to remain anonymous.

So significant is the find, it has to be registered under the Treasure Act (1996). Both the helmet and the brooch will remain at the British Museum where a special report will be prepared.

The age was confirmed by archaeologists using a high resolution contactless scanner, which also produces digital pictures helping to reveal intricate details often hidden by colour variations on the helmet's surface. Other hi-tech equipment also identified tiny hammer indentations in the helmet.

The work was done in partnership with the Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

Dr Steven Willis, a senior lecturer in archaeology and an expert in Iron Age and Roman Britain, said he was delighted to have been able to assist with such a remarkable find for Canterbury and the local area.

He said: "Using laser scanning technology, which has become an essential part of the conservation of objects, we have been able to analyse the helmet from a distance and unlock many details of such an exciting find, such as the manufacture, decoration and use.

"This sort of technology allows the rapid production of accurate and high-resolution digital 3D models of archaeological artefacts, minimising the potential harm associated with the repeated handling of these often fragile objects.

"The technology also ensures any details potentially overlooked by the naked eye are also highlighted.

"The secrets of this helmet are only just beginning to emerge, but we will know much more as the work progresses. More or less intact, helmets of this era are very rare finds; one used as a cremation container, as with this example, is known from Belgium."

Iron Age curator at the British Museum, Julia Farley, called it a "very exciting find".

"In late Iron Age Kent, it was not unusual to bury the cremated remains of the dead in a bag fastened with one or more brooches, but no other cremation has ever been found accompanied by a helmet," she said.

"The owner of this helmet, or the people who placed it in the grave, may have lived through the very beginning of the story of Roman Britain."

It's hoped Canterbury Museum will acquire the rare finds and put them on display.

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CHARITY

Injured heroes gobble up free turkey offer by kind-hearted farmers

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A TURKEY farmer has joined an army of other producers from around the UK to donate the festive birds to injured military personnel – so they don't miss out this Christmas.

The farm-fresh birds are being donated by the farms for an initiative put together by the National Farmers' Union and Connect Packaging.

One supporter is farmer Clive Wreathall who has a 2,400-acre spread on Romney Marsh.

His farm is a mixture of arable and turkeys which he's run for almost half a century.

With his brother Andrew, they raise 14,000 bronze free-range turkeys and 6,000 white traditional barn-reared birds for the Christmas market.

Clive's son Scott will soon be joining the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst for training.

Mr Wreathall said: "We are only too pleased to be supporting Turkeys for Troops, particularly as my eldest son, who is 21-years-old, is about to join the Army.

"Our Armed Services personnel deserve our full support."

The scheme also has backing from the Ministry of Defence.

It means scores of soldiers, past and present, will be able to enjoy a fine Christmas Day meal, they said.

Farmers will be delivering their birds to Catterick Garrison in Yorkshire, Headley Court in Surrey, Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, the Royal Star and Garter in Richmond, and the Royal Hospital in Chelsea, as well as units in Colchester and Edinburgh.

One of the leading men behind the scheme, Lt Col Mel Pears, Commanding Officer of the 15x (NE) Personnel Recovery Unit in Catterick, said: "I would like, on behalf of every soldier under my command, to say thank you to the NFU.

"The wounded, injured and sick of the 15x (NE) PRU are very pleased with this practical demonstration of support; a gift of turkeys this Christmas."

And NFU president Peter Kendall added: "From the farmers, to the Ministry of Defence and to our packaging partners, there has been nothing but genuine goodwill behind the idea of Turkeys for Troops.

"We sincerely hope they enjoy tucking into some really fantastic British produce for their Christmas meals."

Anyone looking for a locally raised bird for their own festive table can go to the website www.ukturkeys.co.uk and put in their postcode for their nearest supplier.



OFF TO THE SHOPS: More than 600 Santas took part in the inaugural Santa Dash at Bromley

EVENT

Christmas is up and running as Santa stampede hits town

SHOPPERS found themselves swamped by a sea of Santas last weekend as more than 600 people donned their red suits to take part in a fun run with a twist.

The inaugural 2km Santa Dash took place through Bromley town centre and proceeded the turning on of the town's Christmas lights.

Hannah Jenvey, from organisers Mytime Leisure, said: "To see 600 people all dressed up in their Santa costumes was quite impressive. Without doubt the Bromley Santa Dash will be making a return for 2013 – but hopefully bigger and better."

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Spindles 50x50 colonial	~~£1.89 ea.~~ £1.69 ea.

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Sawn tan 47 x 75	£1.09
Sawn tan 47 x 125	~~£1.98~~ £1.78
Sawn tan 47 x 175	~~£2.30~~ £2.11
Sawn tan 47 x 225	~~£3.53~~ £2.84
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AWARDS

Time is running out to vote for your favourite food and drink producers

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THE votes are pouring in for the prestigious Taste of Kent Awards 2013 to celebrate the county's food and drink heroes.

Some 8,000 votes have already been submitted by consumers keen to support their favourite producers and retailers.

Organisers Produced in Kent (PinK), an organisation which champions local food and drink producers, are reporting the return of previous winners into the current top 10 of each category as well as a selection of new names.

According to PinK, voting in the 2013 awards, sponsored by Vertex Law and backed by Archant KOS Media, has proved particularly strong this year in all the drink categories as well as the Kent Butcher or Meat Producer of the Year.

PinK's Stephanie Durling urged the public to not leave it too late to make their views heard.

"Don't be complacent; get online and cast your vote to make sure it counts and the best food and drink producers, and retailers make it through and become one of the three shortlisted finalists," she said.

Kent producers are also invited to nominate themselves in two of the categories; Kent Food Product and Best Kent Food Product of the Year.

All winners will be announced on March 8, 2013, at a glittering ceremony at the Mercure Great Danes Hotel in Hollingbourne.



TASTE OF KENT AWARD CATEGORIES

1) **Kent Butcher or Meat Producer of the Year**
2) **Best Kentish Beer**
3) **Best Kentish Wine**
4) **Best Kentish Cider or Perry**
5) **Best Kent Juice Producer**
6) **Kent Local Food Retailer of the Year**
7) **Kent Fishmonger of the Year**
8) **Best Kent Food Product of the Year**
9) **Kent Food Product Category Awards** (five classes in this category)
10) **Kent Artisan Food Producer of the Year**
11) **Kent Restaurant of the Year**
12) **Kent Dining Pub of the Year**
13) **Kent Farmers' Market of the Year**
14) **Produced in Kent Award**
15) **Kent Downs and High Weald AONB**

More than a dozen companies are sponsoring individual categories, including Shopper Anonymous, BTF Partnership and Chapmans of Sevenoaks. They join a long list of supporters: Biddenden Vineyards, Chapel Down Winery, Hadlow College, Kent Downs and High Weald AONBs, Kent County Council, Archant Kent Life, kff (Kent Frozen Foods), NFU Mutual, Opies, sff (Stephen's Fresh Foods), Wilkins Kennedy, Shepherd Neame and Visit Kent.

Media supporters include this newspaper and BBC Radio Kent.

Online voting by the public closes on Wednesday, January 2, 2013. To cast your vote, visit the website at: www.tasteofkentawards.co.uk.

Application forms for the self-nominating categories are also available on the website.

For those wishing to watch the winners be announced, tickets for the Taste of Kent Awards dinner are £90 including a Kentish sparkling wine reception on arrival, a three-course dinner, wine, coffee and chocolates.

To book, or find out more, contact Produced in Kent for details 01732 853170 or email info@producedinkent.co.uk.

CHARITY

Christmas appeal will light up someone's life

THE Joint Rotary Clubs of Thanet are inviting people to sponsor a light in memory of a loved one this Christmas in aid of local charities.

They will appear on the special Tree of Light in Westwood Cross shopping centre in Broadstairs, with personal messages presented in a Book of Remembrance in a lectern at the foot of the tree and on the appeal website.

Organisers ask for a minimum of a £5 donation, which will go to the Pilgrims Hospice and Kids Out, a charity dedicated to bringing fun to the lives of disadvantaged children through day trips.



HOPE: Tree at Westwood

Last year, the Joint Thanet Rotary Clubs raised £1,500 through the appeal, and this year they hope to raise even more, working towards a target of matching the original Tree of Light in Telford, which in its 15th year raised £30,000.

Applications to sponsor a light can be made on the appeal website www.thanet-tree-of-light.co.uk or by picking up a form at Costa Coffee in Westwood Cross or calling the club direct on 01843 833565.

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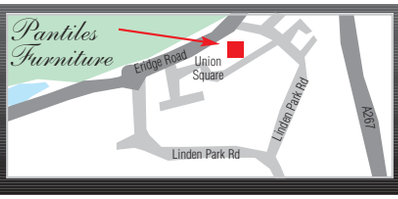
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COMMUNITY

Panto's giant heads-up at council office

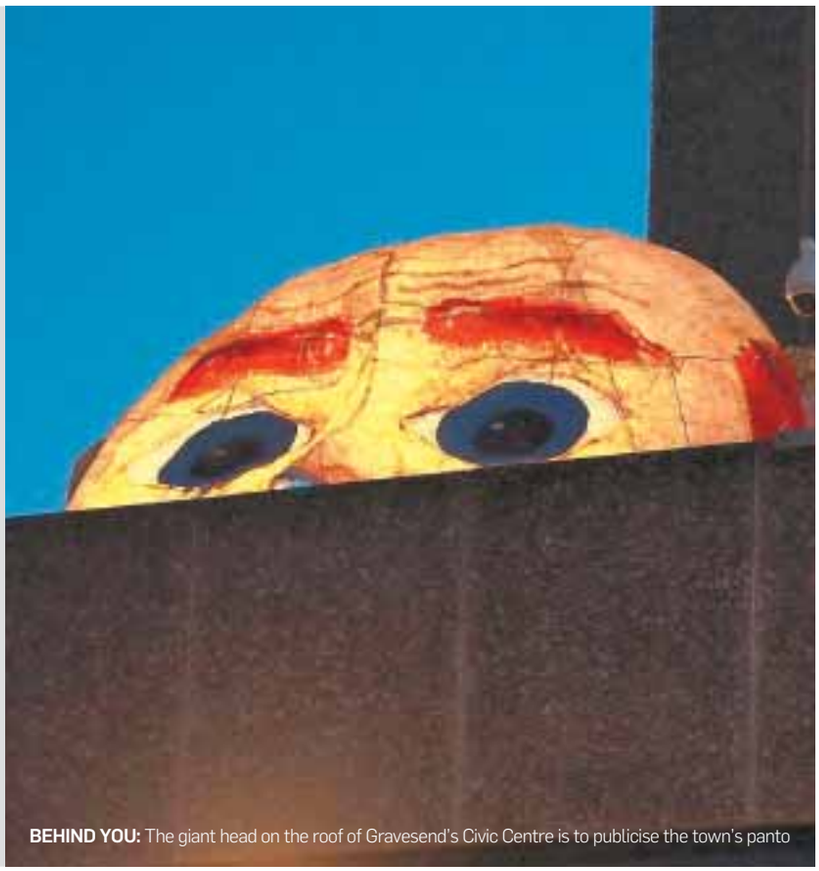
ONLOOKERS can be forgiven for thinking something rather strange is happening amid the corridors of power at Gravesham Borough Council.

Because emerging from the roof of the Civic Centre in Gravesend is the head of a giant – illuminated at night.

But rather than the out-of-control ego of a power-crazed councillor, it is in fact designed to draw attention to the town's Jack and the Beanstalk pantomime at the Woodville Halls theatre.

Created by visual artist Stuart Thompson, it was created from recycled bunting, used to decorate the town during the celebrations to mark the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Melanie Norris, director of communities for the council, said: "The recycling arts project brings the pantomime to life on the Community Square and marks the end of a spectacular year by engaging with the community to achieve something that all residents can enjoy during the festive period."



BEHIND YOU: The giant head on the roof of Gravesend's Civic Centre is to publicise the town's panto

CRIME

Dispersal order put on estate to tackle trouble

A BID to crackdown on anti-social behaviour on an estate in Gravesend has seen police roll out a dispersal order – giving them the power to move on troublemakers.

The dispersal zone will cover the Dickens housing estate and several roads in the Denton area.

It came into force last weekend and will run for six months, expiring on June 1.

It follows a string of incidents including CCTV cameras being set on fire, stones and catapults fired at police vehicles and fires being sparked around the estate.

Residents have also been dogged by off-road motorbikes being used.

Police will be able to disperse any group of two or more people found causing problems, or felt likely to cause "harassment, alarm or distress".

Youngsters under 16, not accompanied by a responsible adult, between 9pm and 6am can be taken back to their home. Failure to comply could lead to a fine or even a three-month jail term.

Inspector Chris Carter, of the community safety unit at Kent Police, said: "After consultation with the council, a dispersal area has been jointly authorised with our partners to assist police in tackling anti-social behaviour in the Denton area.

"This will allow groups we suspect of gathering with the purpose of causing anti-social behaviour to be dispersed and in some circumstances allow children under 16 to be taken home.

"Kent Police uses these measures when there have been large numbers of problems reported and have a good success rate in helping to tackle local issues."





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Quote PR3-KOS

Friday 8 March, 2013

We're taking over Pontins Pakefield for the weekend to take you on a trip down memory lane with great variety entertainment including a 60s tribute act and a host of nostalgic fun from classic to films.

Pontins Pakefield Holiday Village is situated on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy entertainment every night and day with Pontin's famous Bluecoats and visiting cabaret acts — PLUS a choice of bars and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9-hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more. The recently refurbished chalets are all single storey and situated on level ground, in landscaped grounds just a short stroll from the main facilities and car parks.

INCLUDED:
- 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available
- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners



Mamma Mia Summer Seaside Party

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast

Self-Drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS 99p drinks
£119pp
Quote MM6-KOS

Friday 28 June, 2013

We're reviving the 70s & 80s when Abba reigned supreme and their songs were on everyone's lips - a fabulous private party weekend featuring Mamma Mia the Movie and a top Abba Tribute Band. Enjoy entertainment every night and day with Pontin's famous Bluecoats and visiting cabaret acts — PLUS a choice of bars and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9-hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more. The recently refurbished chalets are all single storey and situated on level ground, in landscaped grounds just a short stroll from the main facilities and car parks.

INCLUDED:
- 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available
- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

KENT **REMEMBERED**



STILL STANDING: The footprint of the Hythe barracks is still visible along Hythe's Royal Military Canal

Both fact and fiction link Hythe to British Army

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE continuing use of the military ranges along the shore at Hythe bear testimony to the Cinque Port's links with the Army.

But once the town itself – with the Royal Military Canal cutting through it – was the centre of much more widespread warlike activity.

At the time of the Napoleonic Wars – which ended with the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 – the whole of east Kent was considered to be in the firing line of any French attack.

The canal was built to obstruct inland movement from any invader and its excavated soil piled on to the bank to make a parapet, behind which troops could be positioned and moved out of sight of the enemy.

The canal also had 'kinks' to allow flanking fire along the length of the water-course, if the enemy should attempt to cross.

Other evidence includes the Martello towers which dot the coastline and the Grand Redoubt fortification, just outside Dymchurch.

But less in evidence today is that during the 19th century the town of Hythe housed one of the most important training facilities for the British Army and together with nearby Shorncliffe was home to many regiments.

Among the British Army units which called Hythe home was the 95th Rifles, the second battalion of which was formed in May 1805, from drafts of men from Hythe Barracks.



HERO: Actor Sean Bean played Richard Sharpe in the TV series

Famous in real life for its use of rifles, rather than the less accurate but easier to fire and maintain muskets, the regiment also boast one of the Army's most famous fictional soldiers.

Richard Sharpe was originally the literary creation of author Bernard Cornwell and as portrayed by actor Sean Bean, is a familiar face from the TV series.

According to his online biography, The Sharpe Compendium, which documents his life, loves and career "taking some volunteers with him" the young Richard Sharpe, recently promoted from the ranks after saving the life of the Duke of Wellington, joined the Hythe-based battalion after returning from fighting in India.

The unit was soon set for action in an effort to prevent the French gaining a foothold in Denmark – as detailed in the un-filmed book Sharpe's Prey.

The fictional biography states: "Sharpe narrowly missed out on the failed Walcheren Expedition. He was supposed to miss out on the Denmark Expedition, but thanks to the intervention of an old ally, he was assigned a special mission that took him into the heart of the bombing of the city of Copenhagen."

Five decades later, Hythe was growing increasing in importance as a military post.

In June 1853, a man named Colonel Hay was tasked with the job of establishing a School of Musketry in the town – a facility which formally opened on April 1 the following year.

Lord Henry Hardinge had commissioned the school which was to instruct soldiers in the rapidly evolving rifle – now the main weapon of the Army.

During World War One the school saw many soldiers undergoing training and machine guns were added to its training classes.

While some of its expertise was based elsewhere the school did not formally close its doors until 1969, when all operations were halted.

Today, road names such as Barrack Hill and Military Road commemorate the past.

And although it can be easily overlooked, the footprint of one of the military buildings does remain. It is sited on public land a few yards from the footpath along the canal and close to the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch railway station, with a plaque and floor plan close by.



OPINION

Religious role unlike any other

Scholar **Robin Gill**, feels incoming Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby will be the perfect man to unite a divided Anglican Church

ROWAN Williams has been Archbishop of Canterbury for the last decade and has been deeply loved by many Anglicans around the world.

During that time, religious faith has been under attack from new atheists and so many people of faith have been pleased to have an archbishop who has been able to respond intelligently and sensitively to them.

Together with Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sachs, he has shown that faith really can still make sense of a confusing world. Both leaders have also worked hard to create harmony between differing religious groups.

However, Rowan Williams has not been loved by a minority of conservative evangelical Anglicans. They had many misgivings about his 'liberal' views when he was appointed.

They forced him to withdraw his agreement that a celibate gay person could be made a bishop. They persuaded a third of the Anglican bishops around the world not to attend the 2008 Lambeth Conference of Bishops in Canterbury.

And, recently, they were instrumental in rejecting legislation in the General Synod to allow women to be ordained as bishops. This has left the new archbishop, Justin Welby, a mammoth task when he takes over next year.

Fortunately, Dr Welby may have exactly the right skills and background the Church of England needs at the moment. He comes from a more conservative background so there may well be less suspicion of him by some evangelicals. He worked in the tough oil industry before being ordained 20 years ago. He has worked quietly, but persistently, in troubled parts of Africa and the Middle East trying to negotiate reconciliation between Christians and Muslims.

The troubles of the Church of England are small fry in this context. In interviews he has already shown he is intelligent, self-deprecating, witty and has the common touch.

I suspect that one of the things he will hope to achieve is to move Anglicans on to important issues of justice.

If he can also bring reconciliation to worldwide Anglicans then many of us will be delighted. Anglicans should be able to live peacefully and creatively with differences and help other faith and secular groups to do the same.

Looking to the future, one of the most important global challenges for faith communities will be for them to show that they can contribute positively to peace and justice in the world. Over the last 30 years there has been considerable anxiety as religious fanatics have increasingly resorted to violence. Some people now argue the world would be altogether safer without any religions at all. However, in the 20th century it was secular ideologies that tended to provoke world wars.



I suspect one of the things he wants to achieve is to move Anglicans on to vital issues of justice

Religious leaders such as the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu are still deeply respected by the religious and non-religious alike. Both men have dedicated themselves to peaceful reconciliation. Future religious leaders who would do well to follow their examples. Peace and reconciliation are much needed in the world. There is a need for faith communities to contribute positively here.

Is this too much for one man? Time will show, but he has already got off to a good start.

■ Robin Gill is professor of applied theology in the department of religious studies at the University of Kent. He has published extensively and is director of the MA in applied theology.

KOS COMMENT

Pointless behaviour is coming at a high price

YOU don't need telling that dropping litter is an act of selfish laziness.

But quite aside from the fact it spoils the natural beauty of the county in which we all live and work, the cost of having to clear up after those who don't think before they drop is proving an enormous burden on already cash-strapped local authorities.

By the time the cost of cleaning up the mess left by those scrawling graffiti on our walls or fly-tipping is all added up, it's clear the many millions of pounds could be spent better elsewhere in propping up vital services which are currently facing an uncertain future.

Dropping litter is something all age groups are guilty of. The price of doing so now is simply too high.

It's snow joke on trains

JUST last week we trumpeted how the rail operator Southeastern was ready for the winter.

A light dusting later, and the rail network ground to a halt in a rather humiliating fashion.

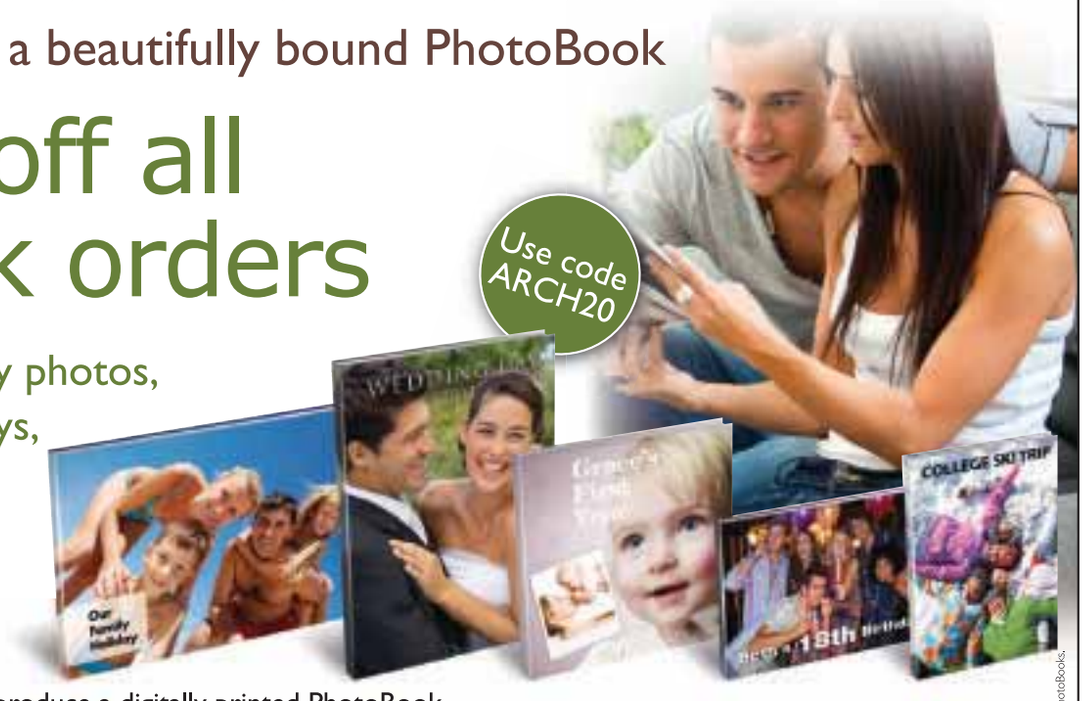
It would be funny. Just that commuters no longer see the joke.

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Samphire Hoe at Dover by Gokce Rynne, Hawkinge

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Flying in the face of reason

AN airport in the Thames Estuary is not a good idea.

Kent's roads are already busy with traffic from Dover and the Channel Tunnel, and a main airport should be to the west or north of London to avoid problems with crossing the Thames.

The south east of the country is sinking a few millimeters each year and the north west rising, which will increase the risk of flooding, especially if a lot of infrastructure is built.

There could also be a tidal surge, as there was in 1952, which would flood vast areas.

With climate change, the opposite effect could happen in some years, with severe water shortages. This would be exacerbated with the increased use for an airport, housing etc and we could end up having water rationed, thus affecting farming.

In addition, in the current economic situation people are traveling less and business class passengers are moving down to economy class, so airlines will make less money and possibly reduce flights, nullifying the need for more airport space.

Jean Coulter, by email

Ex RAF base good solution

AN airport floating secured to the seabed off Whitstable. What planet are these people on?

A simple solution; the Government is closing RAF Lynham. Turn it into a civilian airport with direct links to London via the M4.

Paul Golding, by email

Barmy Boris in it for himself

Sorry, I must have been mistaken for thinking the UK was in recession like the rest of the world.

But we seem to have a Mayor of London that thinks it clever to waste £50 billion of taxpayers' money just so he can make a name for himself, irrelevant of the great proportion of the British public now living in poverty.

This mad Boris just wants the whole of the country to pay for a new hub airport in the Thames Estuary just so he can call it 'Boris Island'.

Boris Island, named after a man that doesn't even know how to comb his hair.

The article you ran last week states that David Cameron previously ruled out a third runway at Heathrow, but Mr Johnson is continuing to push for an estuary airport.

To build a hub airport in the Thames Estuary will result in even greater congestion, on both sides of the river Thames.

Manston Airport has the new road network straight off the M2, it is surrounded by fields that could become long stay car parks and flights in and out of Manston come straight from over the sea.

Passengers travelling to Manston are travelling away from London, away from the congested city, and anything is a great advantage to traffic if it's heading away from the congested M25.

Lydd Airport is another option, has all the facilities necessary for holidaymakers and, like Manston, is just sitting there waiting to be used.

Southend Airport should also be considered as it has good road links, the A127/A12 joining up with the M25 and London.

Another benefit these local airports will bring, especially to operators like Easyjet, Ryanair, Monarch etc, is the charge for using the airport would be a great amount cheaper than using inner London airports, thus this would make flights cheaper so creating more passengers.

AP Goldie, Ashford

Justice must lead the way

An open letter from the President of the Magistrates' Association, Kent branch, to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Kent.

DEAR Mrs Barnes,

For several years magistrates have been expressing concern about the fast increasing number of detected crimes which are not reaching court, but are being dealt with behind the closed doors of police stations, or by officers on the street, by means of Out of Court Disposals (OCDs).

These are often used when an offender is minded to admit to an offence during his encounter with the police, rather than being tested in a public court, and can take the form of anything from a simple or conditional caution to a penalty notice.

If the offender fails to pay the penalty – and it is reported that about half of them do fail – then the court cannot reopen the original case, but merely deals with non-payment.

OCDs often result in outcomes well outside the sentencing guidelines which judges and magistrates are obliged to follow in order to achieve appropriate sentences and fines.

Frequently they result in offenders being treated far more leniently than they would be in court and without publicity. It hardly needs to be said that a court appearance would prove to be a far greater deterrent than a caution or penalty notice issued by the police, especially where offenders have been known to receive a series of penalties or cautions for successive offences and without a proper court conviction.

Even as far back as 2007, more than 100,000 cautions were issued nationally for offences which might otherwise have reached a magistrates' court.

Although Kent is slightly below the national trend, there were some very worrying figures for 2010/11 with 41 per cent of 'detected' offences never reaching court. OCDs were applied to 49 per cent of cases of criminal damage, 46 per cent of violence against the person and 47 per cent of theft and handling.

Magistrates are not for a moment suggesting every minor case should come to court, and there will be occasions when a stern caution will be absolutely right, but the vast majority of the offences in question are not the trivial kind that might have earned a clip round the ear from the village bobby in my boyhood.

Too many OCD cases involve considerable loss or suffering to innocent people who are denied the satisfaction of seeing the perpetrators dealt with by a court of law or, worse, are deprived of the compensation for loss or injury which that court could order.

I invite you to look into these concerns and examine a trend whereby police officers are increasingly becoming judge, jury and executioner.

A less opaque regime would cause a change in budget allocations, but which is to be most treasured in our free society – balancing the books or balancing the Scales of Justice?

Robert Howe, President of the Kent Branch – Magistrates' Association

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If you have a business story or any news you think we should be covering in this section, reporter **Nick Ames** would like to hear from you.
You can phone him on **01303 817181**, or alternatively email **nick.ames@archant.co.uk**.

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SMOKING: Michael Fallon, Minister of State for Business and Enterprise, centre, was among the guests at SWEEP for a demonstration of the all-new furnace that will be vital in stopping the harmful lead and glass that is currently going into landfill sites

Furnace provides answer to a burning ecological issue

Plant is capable of capturing lead and glass from old TV and computer screens

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A SOLUTION to an ever-increasing global ecological problem has been unveiled at a plant in Sittingbourne.

SWEEP Kuusakoski is an Anglo-European company that has developed the world's first glass furnace with the capacity to recover lead and glass from old television and computer screens.

As technology advances, these obsolete devices are being dumped in landfill and can cause big ecological issues because of their heavy-metal content.

The problem is particularly acute in the US, and representatives from America, Sri Lanka, Australia, China and many European countries were on hand to watch the unveiling.

Sevenoaks MP Michael Fallon, Minister of State for Business and Enterprise, also watched the demonstration.



The plant works by sorting the components of the sets by hand and separating the leaded glass from circuit boards and other equipment that can be recycled. The screens are then heated to 1,000°C, which separates the glass and the lead.

The metal is cooled and forms small pebbles, which can then be sold. About two tonnes are produced a day; each tonne is worth £1,300 on the open market.

The molten glass is also then recovered and can be re-used.

In all, the company reclaims 97.34 per cent of all the materials it processes.

Previously the technology to do this had not existed, but with this technological breakthrough 1,000 screens can be dealt with per day as the plant operates 24 hours.

Fallon told 150 delegates from the fields of recycling, business and local authorities: "This new furnace will help tackle the growing global recycling problem of old television sets and computer screens.

"Its continued success, employing nearly 170 people, is great news for Kent. The green economy is at the heart of our economic recovery."

Justin Greenaway, contract manager at the furnace, left, said: "There is a environmental issue here and the solution is right here in Sittingbourne."

The technology will now be made available elsewhere, with construction of similar plants in other countries looking likely in the near future.

■ **For a tour of the plant, visit www.kentnews.co.uk**

Medway looks to creative industries as way forward in bringing new life to high streets

A MOVE to regenerate part of Medway by bringing back into use empty buildings and offering them to creative businesses and artists is on its way.

Project Recreate is aiming to estalish a host of new jobs and opportunities for business expansion by renovating properties along the road, which links the high streets of Chatham and Rochester.

More than £400,000 has already been approved and a bid for an extra £350,000 is under way for the European project, which is part of the Interreg IVA France (Channel) England programme, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

Medway Council's portfolio holder for strategic development and economic growth, Jane Chitty, said: "We already have some successful creative businesses in Medway, so we know it's an area where there's potential for growth.

"Team that with the fact we have four universities, including one of the country's leading creative universities, and this project seemed like the perfect fit for us."

Medway is one of 11 areas taking part in the project and the intention is to create three new business, exhibition and teaching spaces from empty commercial premises – including in the Sun Wharf building in Chatham and at Rochester Riverside.

The new spaces, which are set to open by next autumn, aim to help up to 55 entrepreneurs or creative businesses set up shop, particularly local artists, designers and graduates.

The funding will be used to equip the buildings with studio, performance and showcasing spaces as well as digital-media facilities, seminar spaces and study rooms.

Businesses will also be able to take part in cross-border webinars, workshops and advice sessions to help them establish trade links.

Cllr Chitty said: "By investing in this stretch of the high street, which in recent years has already seen a range of new businesses, we aim to create a lively and exciting space for shoppers that has its own unique identity and form a natural link between the independent retailers in Rochester and the national high-street stores in Chatham.

"It's another example of our work to invest and promote our high streets by thinking innovatively, and I'm excited to see it get under way."



INNOVATION: Jane Chitty

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Book reveals secret of how to grow in difficult times... and you can get a free copy

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

ADVICE on how to prosper in tough times is contained in a new book by Andy Page, of Canterbury-based PH Accountancy.

Why Businesses Stop Growing And What You Can Do About It is co-authored with Steve Hackney, one of the UK's leading marketing and business-growth experts, and reveals the secrets of how to create a highly-successful business – even in today's difficult economy.

The authors say it shows business-owners exactly what to do and what to avoid.

Page said: "For more than 18 years I have been helping small and medium-sized businesses to manage the financial challenges they face from start-up to growth and through to maturity. I've assembled a wealth of knowledge and thought it was time to put pen to paper – so many business-owners can benefit from my expertise.

"When I was conducting the research for the book, I was surprised to discover there wasn't one book which addressed the financial aspects of running a business combined with how to develop it.

"As far as I'm concerned, they both go hand in hand. That's why I teamed up with Steve.

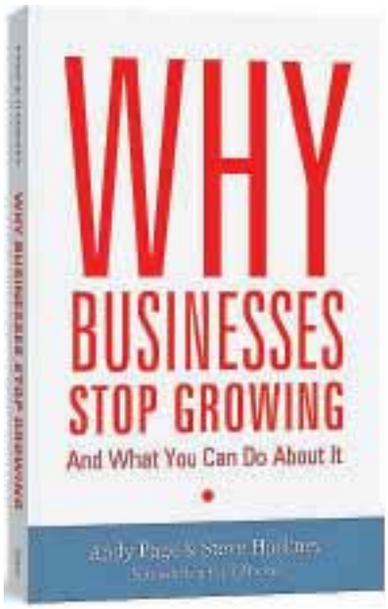
"He is considered by many to be one the world's leading sales and marketing experts.

"The result is a unique book that gets to the heart of running a successful business, combining best-practice financial-management solutions with leading-edge sales and marketing strategies.

"Companies should always make sure they are ready for growth and that the foundations are in place, then ensure all the procedures are properly working. The book covers this and shows how to move forward."

The book shows business-owners how to:

- systematically and strategically grow their business from the ground up.
- use the 4 'Business Multipliers' to get exponential growth.
- successfully apply 'The 5 Ms Of Growing Your Business',
- easily manage the financial challenges that every business faces.
- take complete financial control of their business and much more.



Hackney said he was also delighted with the outcome of the book.

"Co-authoring any book is risky because you put your reputation on the line with the other author," he said.

"However, I had no hesitation in putting this book together with Andy. His wealth of knowledge and expertise in helping small and medium-sized businesses to navigate through the financial pressures and stresses of running and developing a business is second to none.



NOVEL IDEA: Andy Page, who co-wrote the book, has a wealth of experience in helping businesses

"The book will help any business-owner looking to expand, and the examples packed through the book make it very easy for the reader to apply the strategies we discuss."

• As a Christmas present for readers, we have secured five free copies of the book (RRP £30); they are available to anyone running their own business.

To get a copy, phone Andy Page's office on 01227 277667 by the closing date of Friday, December 21.

Solicitors' practice takes on talented Louise to help its elderly clients get peace of mind

AS PART of its commitment to retaining promising young achievers, law firm Furley Page has appointed one of its newly-qualified solicitors to its elderly-client team.

Louise Mathias-Williams, 26, from Canterbury, undertakes Court of Protection work, helping elderly or vulnerable clients who have lost capacity and need assistance to deal with their affairs, as well as advising on care-fee funding issues and NHS continuing-care claims, preparing lasting powers of attorney and drafting wills based on a client's individual circumstances.

She spent two years training with Furley Page, which has offices in Canterbury, Chatham and Whitstable, and is part of a specialised team that provides a range of services for older or vulnerable clients who are becoming confused and struggling to look after their affairs, or who may be suffering from dementia.



NEWCOMER: Louise Mathias-Williams, far left, has joined Furley Page

The team is led by partner Nicola Rostron, who has years of experience in dealing with delicate legal matters surrounding elderly clients and carers. Rostron is also a panel deputy for the Court of Protection.

The team also includes chartered legal executive Val Prosser, who has spent more than 20 years working with elderly and vulnerable clients, solicitor Joshua Williams and legal assistant Garry Wootton.

Rostron said: "Louise has an excellent understanding of the issues that affect the elderly, which can often be very complicated and daunting. Her friendly, professional approach is greatly appreciated by clients."

Mathias-Williams, who graduated from Warwick University with a first in English literature, began her legal studies in 2008 at the College of Law in London, where she achieved a commendation in the graduate diploma in law and a distinction in the legal-practice course.

ACQUISITION



LIFT-OFF: Checkmate has expanded business

Buyout will allow firm to reach new heights

SHEERNESS company Checkmate Lifting And Safety, which designs and makes height safety and textile lifting equipment, has acquired the specialist wind-turbine business of Truman & Hall Safety Training.

The acquisition means HART, Checkmate's dedicated height safety and rescue training business, will be able to provide clients with a wider range of courses, ranging from below ground to high-level rescue and training.

Oliver Auston, Checkmate managing director, said: "This important acquisition underpins our commitment to our work at height training business HART.

"It will give the company a broader range of disciplines to suit its enviable client base and will hopefully secure HART as a significant player in the industry."

Andy Stock, of HART, said: "This is such an exciting opportunity for HART to really develop the training division and we are always on the lookout for professional, enthusiastic and qualified instructors to grow the business further."

EVENT

Networking Hub is place to learn valuable lessons

BASEPOINT Folkestone will be hosting its next 'Networking Hub', a free networking event, on Wednesday, December 12, with talks on how to hire apprentices and understanding employment laws.

The guest speaker at the event, Ann-Marie Liddiard, has worked in the skills and welfare industry for more than 15 years, and in that time has secured £25 million of Government funding to help businesses develop individuals for the workplace.

She now works at Fusion Futures, a recruitment agency that specialises in sourcing the best apprentices for businesses, and will be talking about how SMEs can source and hire apprentices.

Also speaking at the event is Veronica Fox from HR+ Limited, a professional HR and training consultancy, who will explain how businesses can comply with employment laws and utilise HR best practice.

Basepoint centre manager Lorraine May said: "We have some fantastic speakers lined up for our Networking Hub, with a real focus on how to employ the best possible candidates and make businesses more profitable."

The next Networking Hub is taking place from noon to 2pm. Attendees will be provided with lunch and refreshments – all free of charge.

To book a place, email folkestone@basepoint.co.uk or phone 01303 298298.

Training, courses and careers

Dockyard to host college's latest e-learning project

A SUBSIDIARY of MidKent College has this week launched a new enterprise designed to deliver bespoke e-learning solutions across a range of key markets.

MKC Training Services' Cirrus e-learning scheme is based in the Joiners' Shop, within Chatham's Historic Dockyard.

Cirrus e-learning's development team have an impressive background, having delivered more than 500 e-learning projects and collected numerous industry awards.

The team already has a strong base to build on, as MKC Training Services has developed a range of e-learning solutions through its training contract at the Royal School of Military Engineering.

MKC Training Services managing director Andrew Brader explained: "Our background in education, through our links with MidKent College, gives us a unique perspective on developing learning materials.

"We wanted to use this specialist insight to create e-learning materials that really work for learners.

"Whilst we'll use state-of-the-art tools and techniques, our expertise in education and our understanding of how people learn will keep the needs of the learner as our top priority.

"We'll apply these principles to every course we create."

To find out more about Cirrus e-learning, visit www.cirruselearning.com or email info@cirruselearning.com.

IoD deal paves the way ahead for business graduates at uni

STUDENTS looking to break into the world of business fresh from emerging from university have been given a helping hand courtesy of a new initiative.

The University of Kent and the Institute of Directors (IoD) have launched a new partnership scheme which will enable students to become members of the organisation before they graduate.

It is hoped by opening up the opportunity to join, it will increase graduates networking opportunities, and allow them to gain a better insight into the highly competitive - and currently very challenging - business world.

The IoD is a UK-based organisation designed to support, represent and set standards for company directors.

It currently has more than 40,000 members, with offices set up in a host of major UK cities, for the use of members.

It hopes to benefit from the deal with an influx of fresh blood into the organisation.

The university's Kent Business School (KBS) is the only higher education institution in the county to be chosen by the IoD to take part in the new scheme, which was launched at KBS's Canterbury campus building recently.

The IoD hopes to attract new members through partnerships with a limited number of universities across the country.

Dr Sue Hornibrook, head of student placements at KBS Canterbury, said: "This is excellent news for our students taking part in the scheme as it will enhance their employability.

"They'll have access to IoD events, forums, mentoring and placement opportunities.

"It also benefits the IoD, enabling it to benefit from younger members and international insights and connections, as well as new enterprise."

Under the scheme, free membership of the IoD will be offered to all KBS second year students who have registered for a year-in-industry degree and some students on other modules.

Meanwhile, in another boost to the university, Michael Killing, professor of computer science, has been named winner of the Outstanding Contribution to Computer Science Education award by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Special Interest Group for Computer Science Education (SIGCSE).

The international award recognises his work in the computer science education field which centres on the development of software tools and material for the teaching and learning of programming in schools and universities.

Professor Kolling said: "It is a great honour that the work on these systems has been recognised on an international level for the contributions they make to computer science education."



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Regional Growth Fund

Kent County Council

Providing vital skills to feed the demands of local industry

LEADER of Kent County Council, Paul Carter, officially relaunched an initiative designed to prepare youngsters with vital skills for the world of work on Tuesday.

Dignitaries from across the area gathered during the afternoon to mark the return of the Thanet Skills Studio.

It runs a variety of worshops with a view to providing youngsters aged between 16 and 24 with the skills that local employers want in what is currently a challenging marketplace.

Among those skills being taught are engineering, health and social care, catering, IT, vehicle mechanics and joinery.

One of the showcase projects under way is the building of an iconic Caterham Seven sports car from scratch by motor vehicle students, with sponsorship from Broadstairs and St Peter's Rotary Club.

The centre, based on Enterprise Road on the Westwood Industrial Estate, staged a special event to mark its relaunch, with included speeches from invited guests and the choir from the Hartsdown Academy.

Those attending were able to to look around the facilities and speak to students and tutors.

Run in association with the Hartsdown Academy, which runs Hartsdown Technical College, invited guests for the event included Thanet Conservative MPs Sir Roger Gale and Laura Sandys, the chief executive of the East Kent Chamber of Commerce David Foley, and representatives from the worlds of business, education and civic leaders.

Praise for academic glory



PROCESSION: At the cathedral

PARENTS, students and teachers celebrated the success of youngsters from the Bishop of Rochester Academy at a special event held in the historic surroundings of Rochester Cathedral.

The Academy Day saw students pick up their awards for their efforts, while there were also displays from the academy's talented musicians and performers.

Invited guests in attendance included Colin Searle from the Department for Education, Medway Council's childrens' services director Barbara Peacock, and a number of local councillors, vicars from local churches, and the head teachers of a number of other local schools.

The academy is looking to go from strength-to-strength with the opening next year of a new £23m building on its existing site.

It hopes the building will become not just the surroundings for the academy, but a hub for the local community.

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NORTHFLEET SCHOOL FOR GIRLS CO-OPERATIVE LEARNING TRUST

We are a highly successful and ambitious 11-18 school. Our 2012 Ofsted has recognised that Northfleet School for Girls is a "good" school.

Recently rebuilt, the Learning Trust offers an exciting opportunity to teach in a collegiate atmosphere where our motto "Always Learning, Learning All Ways" applies to everyone. The school has a strong sense of community and a belief in the values of self and social responsibility.

Applications are invited from experienced teachers for:

History and English

Recruitment & Retention allowance for a high calibre candidate

Working with subject specialist colleagues in our Communication & Culture Domain you will also work closely with teachers of Modern Foreign Languages and Ethics. Subject specific pen portraits can be found on our website.

Both History and English are taught to A Level and experience in these areas is essential.

You will be innovative and imaginative and create challenging and engaging lessons. A clear understanding of AfL and APP are vital.

FURTHER INFORMATION, INCLUDING OFSTED REPORT AVAILABLE ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE - www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk

Applications now being invited for GTP opportunities in English, Mathematics, Geography, MFL & Media for 2013 start

Application form and further information available on request or on school website (**www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk**).

Applications to **Personnel, at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ** Tel: **01474 831020** or email **personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk**

Appointment will be subject to a full enhanced CRB check.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS - **14th December 2012**

Thamesview SCHOOL

Learning Support Assistant

Fixed Term Contract – 1 Year
28.5 hours a week (5 days)
Term time only - 39 wks per year (including Staff Development Days)
Kent Range 3 (£14,241.00 to £16,144.00 pa)
Pro rata to £9,256.00 - £10,493.00 pa

A friendly and adaptable person is required to work across subject areas, to proactively support students with their learning and welfare needs in order to maximise their levels of achievement and independence. It would be an advantage to have experience of working in a similar post or school setting and a good level of numeracy and literacy (Level 2 or equivalent) is essential.

To apply please submit with your application to Kay McGowan, HR Manager, a letter outlining your reasons for wanting this position, together with evidence of why you are suitable for the role, and how you have developed your skills in previous roles in readiness for this position.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from our HR Manager by email at k.mcgowan@thamesview.kent.sch.uk or by telephoning 01474 566552 ext 8081120.

Closing Date: 10th December 2012 (9.00 am)

Interviews: 18th December 2012

CVs without an application form will not be accepted.

Appointment to this post is subject to a criminal background check via the disclosure procedure.
Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy.

St John's Catholic Comprehensive School

TEACHER OF HUMANITIES

St John's is a successful Visual Arts College in Gravesend which seeks to appoint an enthusiastic teacher of Humanities with either a Geography or Religious Education specialism.

Please contact the school on **01474 534718** or e-mail **office@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk** for an application pack.

More details, including job descriptions and application forms can also be downloaded from our website: **www.raaave.com**

This post will be subject to safer recruitment procedures.

Closing date: Friday, 14 December.

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Hourly Paid Lecturer in Psychology
Ref: SESS

Hourly Rate: £23.44 - £27.22 per hour
Maidstone Campus

We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced Psychology lecturer to join our Access to Higher Education team. They will need to have experience of teaching Psychology, preferably to adult learners. The successful candidate will hold, or be willing to work towards, a recognised teaching qualification.

Closing date:
12 noon, Thursday 17 January 2013

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

MidKent College

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Home Worker - Kent

ARCHANT LIFE

An opportunity has arisen to join Archant Life part of Archant Community Media Ltd, the UK's largest independently owned media business.

Based in Kent working out of your home office you will need to be presentable, self motivated sales professional. You will be responsible for selling advertising solutions for our Kent Life magazine. This is an opportunity for an experienced salesperson to develop their career in a competitive market across a multi-platform portfolio.

For this varied role you will need to work efficiently under pressure, prioritise your workload depending on deadlines and be able to demonstrate sales experience in a competitive market. Good communication skills are essential, whether by telephone, face-to-face or in written form.

In return we offer a very competitive package which includes a generous uncapped commission scheme. The exceptional benefits include 5 weeks annual leave and a contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period). A wide range of voluntary benefits include a cycle scheme, childcare vouchers, Westfield Health Scheme and Archant Gold (charity matched funding).

To apply for the above position please apply online at **www.archant.co.uk** and click on vacancies.

Carnalea Residential Home for the Elderly

In Faversham

Senior Carer

Candidates will need to have 2 years experience in a senior position and hold an NVQ level 3 or be working towards it. You must be organised, efficient, forward-thinking, a good delegator and have excellent communication skills.

Duties will include working closely with the manager, administering medication, planning all aspects of residents' care, record-keeping and taking full responsibility for your shifts.

Weekend Domestic

Duties will include general cleaning of the property from 9am - 2pm.

For further details regarding either vacancy please telephone between 10am - 4pm on 01795 532629.

Cumbria House Care Home

Cumbria House is currently looking for an experienced **Senior Care Assistant** and **Care Assistants** to work with in their Folkestone based care home.

Applicants for both vacancies must have experience in elderly care and those applying for the Senior Care role must be in possession of NVQ Level 3 in Health & Social Care.

Posts are subject to CRB Disclosure, cost to be met by applicant.

For further information on either of the vacancies, please contact Julia on **01303 254019**.



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We pride ourselves on good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response.

Media experience is not essential as full training will be given, however good numeracy, literacy and computer skills are required.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

Due to the location, you will be required to have your own transport.

To apply for the above position please apply online at www.archant.co.uk and click on vacancies



Bradstow School

Bradstow is a creative and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19. It is situated in 13 acres of parkland just a few hundred metres from the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We seek to meet the needs of children and young people with autism and severe learning difficulties with associated behaviours that may be challenging. We have achieved national recognition for our developments in Communication and Behaviour Management.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT – PERSONNEL & RECEPTION

£17,161 to £19,126 per annum - 37 hours per week, Monday to Friday – All Year Round.

To provide Personnel based administrative support to the Personnel Officer and school for 2.5 days per week, be the first point of contact to resolve queries from staff relating to pay, terms and conditions etc.

Undertake Reception duties for 2.5 days per week.

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, warm, creative and open to learning with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, so for an application form and information pack please email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk Or you may call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine).

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications is 5pm, Wednesday 19th December 2012.

www.bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

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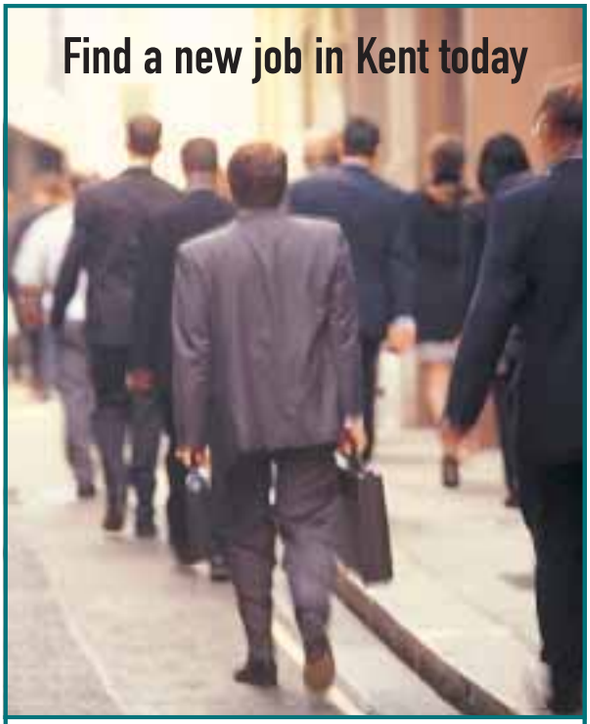
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PLANNING

Folkestone

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/1045/SH - 78 Sandgate High Street Sandgate Folkestone Kent CT20 3BX - Extension to time limit of planning permission Y09/0240/SH for the change of use from office/commercial unit (Class A2) to self contained ground floor flat, together with alterations to existing shop front and other external alterations.

Y12/1055/SH# - 9 High Street Lydd Romney Marsh Kent TN29 9AJ - Listed building consent for the reinstatement of floors, ceilings, stairs, partitions and internal doors removed without consent, alterations to rear doors and windows, provision of new bathroom.

Y12/1080/SH+ - Little Elm House Hillside Street Hythe Kent CT21 5EN - Erection of a side extension to existing garage to provide an office with decking and fencing to the flat roof of the side extension.

Y12/1079/SH+ - 42 Grange Road Saltwood Hythe Kent CT21 4QS - Erection of single storey rear extension and construction of new roof, with increased height compared to existing, incorporating new second floor bedroom, external alterations and formation of front forecourt parking spaces (resubmission of application Y12/0758/SH).

Y12/1061/SH - Flat 3 3 Clifton Road Folkestone Kent CT20 2EH - Retrospective application for two replacement windows - passed to officer for validation

Y12/1074/SH - 55 High Street New Romney Kent TN28 8AH - Erection of a one and two storey building comprising a ground floor retail unit and a two storey dwelling, following demolition of the existing structures.

Y12/1084/SH# - 55 High Street New Romney Kent TN28 8AH - Conservation area consent for demolition of existing buildings

Y12/1076/SH# - 26 - 30 High Street Lydd Romney Marsh Kent TN29 9AJ - Change of use of redundant bank premises (Class A2) with associated flat to residential and conversion to form three dwellings (Class C3), erection of ground and first floor rear extensions, roof extension with dormer windows to front and side roof slopes and rooflights to rear to accommodate second floor living accommodation, new front bay window and internal and external alterations.

Y12/1059/SH#* - Boarmans Farm Boarmans Lane Brookland Romney Marsh Kent - Extension of time limit of planning permission Y09/0180/SH for the demolition of existing barn and dwelling and erection of a replacement dwelling.

Y12/1066/SH+ - Royal Oak Motel Ashford Road Newingreen Kent CT21 4JB - Listed building consent for the installation of french casement doors to rear elevation.

Y12/0836/SH# - 1 Coastguard Cottage Dungeness Road Dungeness Romney Marsh Kent - Change of use of a residential storage building to holiday let accommodation.

Y12/1068/SH - Magpie Cottage Coopers Lane Sellindge Ashford Kent TN25 6AH - Erection of a two storey side extension.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

\# - The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

\+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/03130/EIAMJ **Benenden Hospital Goddards Green Road, Benenden**
- Hybrid Planning Application: Part Detailed - Extension and redevelopment of existing hospital complex including infill extensions and extensions to east and west sides of main building, re-organisation of hospital car parking, associated highway works and associated development including demolition of minor extensions, a sub-station and redundant buildings including 2 residential units, new lighting scheme, landscape works and works to buildings to north of site; Part Outline - Demolition and redevelopment of part of south east section of the site to provide 24 dwellings with associated car parking and landscaping (MAJOR) (LB) (EIA) (DEVPLN)

12/03131/LBC **Benenden Hospital Goddards Green Road, Benenden**
- Listed Building Consent - Alterations to Lister Wing (LB)

12/02992/LBC **Tunbridge Wells Railway Station Vale Road, Culverden**
- Listed Building Consent: Two LCD information screens (works already completed) (LB)

12/03212/FUL **1 Marlingate Cottages Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst**
- Conversion of The Granary building to a holiday let (LB)

12/03235/HOUSE **2 Pixhall Cottages High Street, Hawkhurst**
- Porch with W.C; garage, log store and mower/implement store (LB)

12/03236/LBC **2 Pixhall Cottages High Street, Hawkhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Porch with W.C; garage, log store and mower/implement store (LB)

12/03211/FUL **Hawkbrand House Longbrooks Farm, Paddock Wood**
- Change of use from agricultural store to B1 office (work commenced) (LB)

12/03193/FUL **5 - 8 The Corn Exchange, Dowding House, Frant House, Eridge House The Pantiles, Pantiles & St**
- Part change of use of ground floor shop (Use Class A1) to form delicatessen and cafe (Use Classes A1 & A3) with frontage to Sussex Mews. Works to support the creation of a new pedestrian passage to link the Corn Exchange with Sussex Mews. New 'street' frontage to Sussex Mews, to include shopfronts and covered pedestrian colonnade (glazed canopy over). Frant House and Dowding House - first and second floors (part), change of use from office (Use Class B1) to form a Rosemary Shrager Cookery School (Use Class D1) with ancillary Head Chef's apartment (Use Class C3). Canopy over central portion of Sussex Mews (LB) (CA)

12/03160/FUL **Asquith Nurseries Limited Woodlands Pre School & Nursery, Southborough Town Council**
- Retrospective - bird hide and garden play equipment (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 08 December 2012

Public Notice

2 December 2012

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

The Canterbury City Council (3 Petchell Mews) Compulsory Purchase Order No 1 2012

The Housing Act 1985 (Part II) and the Acquisition of Land Act 1981

Compulsory Purchase of Land at 3 Petchell Mews Canterbury Kent CT1 1LB

Notice is hereby given that Canterbury City Council has made The Canterbury City Council (3 Petchell Mews) Compulsory Purchase Order No 1 2012 under section 17 of the Housing Act 1985 (Part II).

It is about to submit this order to the Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government for confirmation, and if confirmed, the order will authorise Canterbury City Council to purchase compulsorily the land described below for the purpose of social housing.

A copy of the order and of the accompanying map may be seen at all reasonable hours at Canterbury City Council Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YW.

Any objection to the order must be made in writing to The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, National Planning Casework Unit, 5, St Phillip's Place, Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2PW before 2 January 2013 and should state the title of the order, the grounds of objection and the objector's address and interests in the land.

Description of land – 3 Petchell Mews, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1LB

Mark Ellender, Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury CT1 1YW

Public Notice

2 December 2012

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

Application for new groynes at Herne Bay

Notice is hereby given that Canterbury City Council has applied to the Marine Management Organisation under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, Part 4, for a marine licence to undertake the construction of new groynes at Herne Bay. Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at 124 High Street, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 5JY.

Copies of the Application and associated information may be viewed on line in the Public Register at **www.marinemanagement.org.uk/publicregister**

Representations or objections in respect of the application should be made in writing, giving an address to which correspondence relating to the representation or objection may be sent, to the Marine Management Organisation, Lancaster House, Hampshire Court, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7YH, or alternatively emailed to **laura.calvert@marinemanagement.org.uk**, within 28 days from 29 November 2012, quoting reference MLA/2012/00432.

The Marine Management Organisation will pass to the applicant a copy of any objection or representation we receive.

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PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/1872/S - MILL PLACE COTTAGE, SYMONDS LANE, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6HA - Conversion and extension of existing detached garage/workshop including raised ridge line, insertion of dormer windows and rooflights, car porch and associated works to form annexe accommodation. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1873/S - MILL PLACE COTTAGE, SYMONDS LANE, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6HA - Listed building consent for conversion and extension of existing detached garage/workshop including raised ridge line, insertion of dormer windows and rooflights, car porch and associated works to form annexe accommodation. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/1874/N - MAIDSTONE POLICE STATION, PALACE AVENUE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6NF - Rearrangement of wheelchair access ramp to front elevation. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/1885/N - 53, EYHORNE STREET, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1TS - Variation of condition 4 of Planning Permission MA/11/1494 (Erection of a single storey side extension, a two storey rear extension and changes to fenestration (revised scheme to MA/11/0536) as shown on drawing no.s DHA/7988/01-07 received on 01/09/11.0. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/1949/S - KENT COTTAGE AND CHANCE HOLDING, GRIGG LANE, HEADCORN, KENT, TN27 9TD - Outline planning application with access, layout, scale and appearance to be determined and with landscaping as a reserved matter, for the demolition of buildings at Kent Cottage and Chance Holding to enable the construction of residential development (for a maximum of 29 dwellings inclusive of 8 affordable dwellings) inclusive of retained woodland as open amenity land, enhanced landscaping including new pond, electricity sub station, foul drainage pumping station with access road off Grigg Lane. **Reason: 6, 7, 9**

MA/12/1991/S - KNOWLE HILL GAME FARM, KNOWLE HILL, ULCOMBE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1ES - Change of use of land for the erection of two Holiday Log Cabins. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1992/N - WICKHAM HOUSE, 15, THE SQUARE, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2PQ - Erection of conservatory. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/1993/N - WICKHAM HOUSE, 15, THE SQUARE, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2PQ - Listed building consent for the erection of conservatory. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/1997/N - WESTLEA HOUSE, OLD HAM LANE, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2LT - Conversion of existing integral garage and utility room into larger kitchen/utility area with replacement windows. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1998/N - WESTLEA HOUSE, OLD HAM LANE, LENHAM, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2LT - Listed building consent for the replacement of the garage doors with windows to facilitate the conversion of existing integral garage/utility area into larger kitchen/utility area. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/2028/S - UPPER CRISBROOK MILL, HAYLE MILL ROAD, TOVIL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6XR - Listed building consent for the demolition of part of detached garage and erection of extension to remaining garage to include garden store and associated works including parking area, paths and changes to land levels. **Reason: 4**

MA/12/2032/N - KCC SPRINGFIELD LIBRARY HQ, SANDLING ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT - An application for a new planning permission to replace extant permission MA/09/0862 (Outline Planning Application for the erection of residential development comprising of 100 flats and 14 houses with all matters reserved for future consideration as shown on drawing nos. PA-GND-SPR-AST-RES-GA-01-A, PA-L01-SPR-AST-RES-GA-01-A, PA-L02-SPR-AST-RES-GA-01-A, PA-SL-SPR-AST-RES-MAS-01-A, PA-SL-SPR-AST-RES-ELV-01-A, planning statement, design & access statement, validation checklist, phase 1 contamination study, transport assessment, daylight and sunlight study, visual impact assessment, ecological scoping survey, noise assessment, air quality assessment and amenity tree survey received 21/05/2009 and as amended by arboricultural method statement and draft travel plan received 11/08/2009) in order to extend the time limit for implementation. **Reason: 1, 6**

MA/12/2040/N - LEDIAN FARM, UPPER STREET, LEEDS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1RZ - An application for conservation area consent for partial demolition of existing boundary wall to Upper Street to create pedestrian and vehicular access to new Continuing Care Retirement Community development. **Reason: 4**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
4 - Application is for Conservation Area Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.
7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.
9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **23rd December 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 9th December 2012

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Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//12/01979/FUL: The Round House, 1 Wincheap, Canterbury, CT1 3QY Replacement windows to left and right side including dormer windows and one front dormer window above parapet wall. **Applicant: Mr Toman** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01981/FUL: 172 The Street, Adisham, CT3 3LB Single-storey rear extension. **Applicant: Mr Hughes** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02031/FUL: The Old Bake House, The Street, Petham, CT4 5QY Removal of steel fuel oil tank against north elevation and placement of new green plastic bunded fuel oil tank in rear garden. **Applicant: Mr S Allen** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/02089/LB: 17 Palace Street, Canterbury, CT1 2DZ Installation of servery to tea shop, with associated water supply and drainage pipework, together with fire detection equipment. **Applicant: Canterbury Church Shop** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/02093/FUL: 5 Ivy Place, Canterbury, CT1 3ST Single-storey extension to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Ms Hannah Peaston** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02097/FUL: Altira Business Park, Margate Road, Herne Bay, CT6 6LA Erection of a foodstore (Use Class A1) including a cafe, industrial/commercial units (Use Class B1, B2 and/or B8), petrol filling station, surface level car parking, new access and highway works, landscaping, servicing and associated works. **Applicant: Terrace Hill (Herne Bay) Limited** Reason: Major development.
CA//12/02112/FUL: 89 High Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AY Removal of existing 1970's glass shop front to be replaced by a traditionally styled timber framed construction of the same overall width and height. **Applicant: Clarks Limited** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02124/ADV: Land at Whitefriars Street, Canterbury 1 no. halo illuminated sign. **Applicant: Henderson Global Investors** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02125/ADV: Land at Marlowe Arcade, Canterbury Addition of 2 no. floor inserts and a non-illuminated sign. **Applicant: Henderson Global Investors** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 7 January 2013.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 7 December 2012

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 24 DECEMBER 2012

SW/12/1129:
Extension of mezzanine floor office and create dorma's for head room and natural light - S & A Steel Services Ltd, 2A John Hall Close, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 2**

SW/12/1305:
Change of use of part of 1-2 Limes Place B1 (Business) Use to A5 (Hot food takeaway) Use and the extension of 1-2 Limes Place and it's use as 5 residential properties - 1-2 Limes Place, Preston Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1321:
Extension to join two existing sports buildings to form sports complex - The Abbey School, London Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 3,4 & 6**

SW/12/1330 & SW/12/1476:
Shop front change and creation of one 3 bed self-contained flat - 4 Broadway, SHEERNESS; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1422:
Rear extension and removal of porch and replacement windows - Chapel Cottage, Plum Pudding Lane, DARGATE; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1430:
Single storey extension to front of property - 22 Priory Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1448:
Installation of an 8 MWP solar photovoltaic farm comprising 32,832 solar panels and associated transformer inverter units, and substation, with associated security fence, grid connection and landscaping - Old Rides Farm, Leysdown Road, EASTCHURCH; **REASON 3**

SW/12/1452 & SW/12/1453:
To lay a porous (gravel) driveway to side of cottage. Drive will be eight metres long with a turning space (up to 8m). To open up an entry onto road 5m wide - 1 Fernlea Cottage, The Street, DODDINGTON; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1455:
Two storey side extension - 63 The Street, BOUGHTON; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1463:
Proposed extension to existing foodstore with new glazed canopy and car park re-arranged to suit and brick walls to be rendered - Aldi Foodstore Ltd, Millenium Way, SHEERNESS; **REASON 3**

SW/12/1467:
Demolishment of existing B1 workshop and outbuildings to facilitate the erection of 6 new residential flats - 47 Bayford Road, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 6**

SW/12/1479:
Replacement and minor raising of existing flat roof to living room, including insertion of glazed skylight lantern - 16 Ospringe Place, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

NOTICE OF INTENDED LAND DISPOSAL
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
SECTION 123 (2A)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council intends to dispose of the freehold interest in four areas of land, which are for identification purposes described in the schedule to this notice.

This notice is given in so far as each area of land consists of or forms part of an open space within the meaning of the above Section.

A plan of each area of land is available to view at the Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2AB or at the Weald Information Centre, The Old Fire Station, Stone Streeet, Cranbrook TN17 3HF.

Objections to any of the proposed disposals must be made in writing to the Legal Services Manager, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS by no later than 16 December 2012.

SCHEDULE

Land at rear of Humphreys, Petteridge Lane, Matfield TN12 7LT (approximately 4451 square metres)

Land at rear of Station Cottages, Hartley, Cranbrook, TN17 2SS (approximately 1620 square metres)

Land at The Grove, Pembury TN2 4BU (approximately 10117 square metres)

Land between 7 & 9 Blackthorn Avenue, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 9YA (approximately 764 square metres)

Paul Cummins
Legal Services Manager

Dated Friday 7 December 2012

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13

KCC/CA/0398/2012 - Proposed development at Herne Bay Wastewater Treatment Works, May Street, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 6TQ

Southern Water Limited is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for an upgrade to existing Wastewater Treatment Works including 2 walk-in Kiosks to support the treatment process.

You may view this application at Canterbury City Council, Canterbury Main Office, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW.

KCC/DA/0409/2012 - Proposed development at Pinden Quarry, Green Street Green Road, Dartford, Kent, DA2 8DX

Pinden Limited is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for the variation of condition 26 of planning permission DA/11/1043 to amend the hours of operation **from** 07:00 to 18:00 hours Monday to Friday and 07:00 to 13:00 hours on Saturdays **to** 06:00 to 19:00 hours Monday to Friday and 06:00 to 13:00 hours on Saturdays.

You may view this application at Dartford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1DR.

KCC/TM/0411/2012 - Proposed development at Tonbridge Wastewater Treatment Works, Sanderson Way, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1XX

Southern Water Limited is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for upgrade to existing Wastewater Treatment Works including 2 walk-in kiosks to support the treatment process.

You may view this application at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ.

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

KCC/CA/0400/2012 - Proposed development at Canterbury Wastewater Treatment Works, Sturry Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 0AA.

Southern Water Limited is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for upgrade to existing Wastewater Treatment Works. Three walk-in kiosks to support treatment processes. The proposed development is near to the Sturry Conservation Area and therefore could affect its character and/or appearance.

You may view this application at Canterbury City Council, Canterbury Main Office, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 28 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the City/ Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 9 December 2012

Kent County Council

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 2012

Designation of the Civil Parish of Hythe as a Neighbourhood Area

NOTICE IS GIVEN that Shepway District Council has designated the civil parish of Hythe as a neighbourhood area within the meaning of Section 61G of the 1990 Act. The purpose of designating the area as a neighbourhood area is so that a neighbourhood plan can be prepared for that area.

A copy of the designated map of the area can be viewed on the district council's website at www.shepway.gov.uk/content/view/201521/211 or at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY during normal office hours.

Chris Lewis
Head of Planning
9th December 2012

Folkestone

To advertise in this section

01303 817056

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Sissinghurst Castle, Biddenden Road, Cranbrook**

Applicant: **Mr Mark Chittenden**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this notice. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

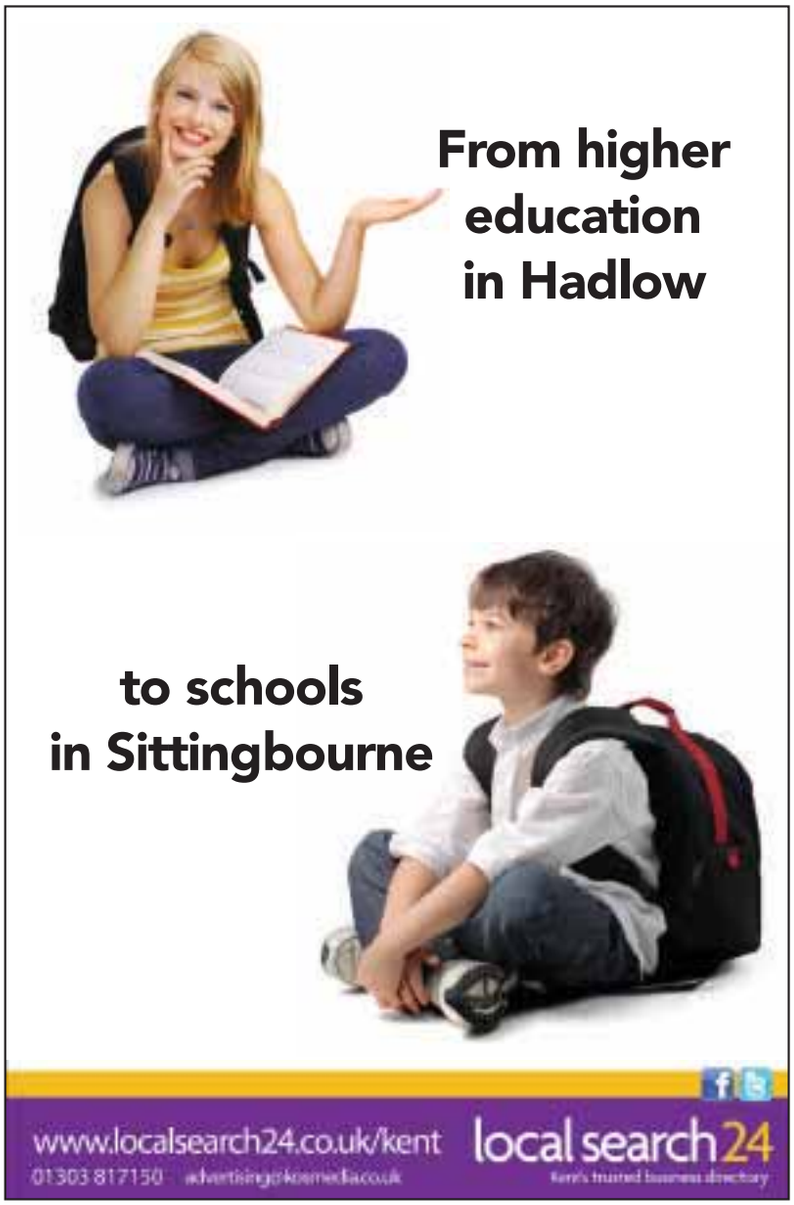
An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Cornwallis Suite, Courtenay Road, Maidstone**

Applicant: **Mrs Sharon Kember**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this notice. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ



To advertise in this section

01303 817056

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF MODIFICATION ORDER

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT
FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH AE662, BRABOURNE)
DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

On 27th November 2012 an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs confirmed the above Order without modifications.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by adding a public footpath with a width of 1.2 metres which commences on Church Road opposite the Primary School and runs generally north-westwards for approximately 412.2 metres to its connection with public footpath AE285.

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and Map may be seen free of charge during office hours at the Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and map may also be purchased there.

This Order became operative as from 27th November 2012 but if a person aggrieved by the Order desires to question the validity thereof or of any provision contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of Section 53(3)(c)(i) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, or that any of the requirements of Schedule 15 to the Act have not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he may, under Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the Act, within 42 days from 9th December 2012 make application for the purpose to the High Court.

PROW - IN THE AREA OF CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 SECTION 53

Notice is hereby given that an Inspector will be appointed by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to determine

Kent County Council Map Sheet 154 (TR16NW) (Public Footpath CW91 at Whitstable and Chestfield) Definitive Map Modification Order (No. 2) 2012 and will attend at: St. Andrews Church Hall, Hampton Pier Avenue, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 8DY on Tuesday 15 January 2013 at 10.00am to hold a public local inquiry into the Order

The effect of the Order, if confirmed without modifications, will be to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by downgrading to Public Footpath status that length of Restricted Byway CW38 (known as Grasmere Road) commencing at its junction with Blackberry Way in Whitstable and running in an east-south-easterly through easterly direction for 485 metres to its junction at Shepherd's Walk in Chestfield as shown on the map attached to the Order. The path has a width of 50ft (15.24 metres) and will be renumbered CW91. All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

Any person wishing to view the statements of case and other documents relating to this Order may do so by appointment at Kent County Council, Countryside Access Team, Public Rights of Way, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX during normal office hours (Telephone Miss Melanie McNeir on 01622 221628 to make an appointment).

Planning Inspectorate Reference: FPS/W2275/7/69

Contact point at the Planning Inspectorate: Clive Richards, Rights of Way Section, Room 3/25, Hawk Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN. Tel: 0117 372 8626 Email: clive.richards@pins.gsi.gov.uk

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER

NOTICE OF MODIFICATION ORDER

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR
THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(FOOTPATH ER298 AT SHEPHERDSWELL WITH COLDRED)
DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

The above Order was made on 26th November 2012 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by adding a Footpath which commences at the junction of public footpaths ER80 and ER81 and runs along the edge of a field in a generally south-south-easterly direction for approximately 204.0 metres and then turns to run in a generally south-south-westerly direction for approximately 94.0 metres to it connection with public footpath ER83. The path has a width of 1.2 metres.

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent, CT16 3PG or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may also be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent or delivered in writing to MRS MARIA McLAUCHLAN at the Kent County Council (address as below) no later than 25th JANUARY 2013. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order (or to any part of it), or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council, instead of submitting the Order to the Secretary of State (or part of it if the Authority has by Notice to the Secretary of State so elected under paragraph 5 of schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) may itself confirm the Order (or that part of the Order). If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment (in whole or in part), any representations or objections which have been duly made and not been withdrawn will be sent with it.

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZR92 IN THE PARISH OF IWADE

PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZR92, IWADE
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1) AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath ZR92 between 32 and 34 Springvale, Iwade and 48 and 50 Sheerstone, Iwade from the 3rd December 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 22nd February 2013.

The path will be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via an alleyway, between 50 and 48a,b and c Sheerstone and opposite 43 Springvale and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZU34 IN THE PARISH OF SITTINGBOURNE

PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZU34, (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1) AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed part of Public Footpath ZU34 between Swanstree Avenue and Penn Close from the 27th November 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 22nd December 2012.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Penn Close, Step Style and Longridge to Swanstree Avenue and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 9th December 2012**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - GRAVESHAM AREA

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PARROCK STREET, GRAVESEND)
(PROVISION OF TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES)

THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 AS AMENDED BY THE TRANSPORT ACT 1981 AND THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given by the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under Section 90A to Section 90"I" of the Highways Act 1980 as amended by Section 32 and Schedule 10 of the Transport Act 1991 and by paragraph 12 of Schedule 4 of the Road Traffic Act 1991 all other enabling powers, proposes to provide the traffic calming measures described in the Schedule hereto. The roads affected and the locations of the proposed measures are as described in the Schedule

SCHEDULE 1

Speed Cushions

(75mm in height, 1.6 metres wide and 3.5m long (including approach ramps)

over part widths of both lanes)

1. Parrock Street:

a. 15 metres north west of its junction with Edwin Street;

b. 19 metres north west of its junction with The Grove; and

c. 52 metres south east of its junction with The Grove.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PARROCK STREET, GRAVESEND)
(ZEBRA CROSSING)
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, intends to install a zebra crossing on Parrock Street, Gravesend at a point 18 metres south east of the centre of its junction with The Grove.

A plan showing the location of the proposed traffic calming and zebra crossing may be inspected during normal working hours at the Ashford Highway Depot, Unit 4 Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD or at Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX.

Any persons wishing to support the proposal or to object to it should write to Kerry Prescott, Ashford Highway Depot, Unit 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD or email tro@kent.gov.uk quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than 07/01/2013.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF GRAVESHAM)

(20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS) AMENDMENT NO. 1 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

Notice is herby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be :-

To extend the existing 20mph zone in Gravesend Town Centre, to include the length of Parrock Street from a point 17 metres south east of its junction with Lord Street to a point 80 metres south east of its junction with The Grove. This is the length of road adjacent to the Parrock Street car park, and the reduced speed limit is proposed to improve road safety for all road users.

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement, and a map showing the extents of the proposals may be inspected during normal working hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Ashford Highway Depot, Unit 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD.

Any persons wishing to support the proposal or to object to it should write to Kerry Prescott, Ashford Highway Depot, Unit 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD or email tro@kent.gov.uk quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than 07/01/2013.

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE

ROMNEY PLACE, MAIDSTONE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of danger to the public due to the increased Christmas traffic flow, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the left turn into Romney Place between 10th December 2012 and 24th December 2012.

The road will be closed at the junction with Lower Stone Street.

The alternative route is via Lower Stone Street, Mote Road, Wat Tyler Way, Padsole Lane.

TOWER LANE, BEARSTED & COLLIER STREET, COLLIER STREET, MAIDSTONE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of kerbing and carriageway patching repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Tower Lane, Bearsted on or after 10 December 2012 & B2162 Collier Street, Collier Street on or after 27 January 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

Tower Lane will be closed from Roseacre Lane to Yeoman Lane and Collier Street from B2162 Lamberhurst Road to Green Lane.

The alternative route for Tower Lane is via Roseacre Lane, A20 Ashford Road, Yeoman Lane and for B2162 Collier Street is via Green Lane, Underlyn Lane, B2079 Maidstone Road/High Street/Church Green/West End/Goudhurst Road/Winchett Hill/Summer Hill/North Road, A262 West Road/Clayhill, B2162 Horsmonden Road/Lamberhurst Road/Maidstone Road/Claygate.

(VARIOUS ROADS, BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE)
(7.5 TONNE WEIGHT RESTRICTION)

EXPERIMENTAL ORDER 2012
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL acting as the Local Traffic Authority and in exercise of their powers under Sections 9 and 10 (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ("the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order:-

ROADS SUBJECT TO A 7.5 TONNE WEIGHT RESTRICTION:

Benover Road (B2162) - From its junction with the B2162 Hampstead Lane to its junction with Collier Street.

Claygate (B2162) - From its junction with B2162 Collier Street to its junction with Spenny Lane.

Collier Street (B2162) - From its junction with the B2162 Benover Road to its junction with B2162 Claygate.

Emmet Hill Lane - From its junction with B2162 Benover Road to its junction with Claygate Road.

Forge Lane - From its junction with B2162 Benover Road to its junction with Jarmans Lane.

Green Lane - From its junction with B2162 Collier Street to its junction with Hunton Road.

Haviker Street - From its junction with B2162 Collier Street to its junction with Green Lane.

High Street - From its junction with B2162 Benover Road to its junction with Vicarage Road.

Hunton Road - From its junction with East Street to its junction with Pattenden Lane.

Jarmans Lane - From its junction with Forge Lane to its junction with the B2162 Collier Street.

Kenward Road - From its junction with Hunt Street to its junction with B2010 Yalding Hill.

Kings Lane - From its junction with B2162 Collier Street to its junction with Spenny Lane.

Longend Lane - From its junction with B2162 Collier Street to its junction with Green Lane.

Lughorse Lane - from its junction with Yalding Hill to its junction with West Street.

Mill Lane - From its junction with West Street to its junction with the B2162 Benover Road.

Sheephurst Lane - From its junction with B2162 Collier Street to its junction with Goudhurst Road.

Symonds Lane - From its junction with B2162 Benover Road to its junction with Lees Road.

West Street - From its junction with Mill Lane to its junction with Lughorse Lane.

Vicarage Road - From its junction with Mill Lane to its junction with the B2010 High Street Yalding.

Yalding Hill - From its junction with Vicarage Road to its junction with Lughorse Lane.

The following roads in the existing Order 'The Kent County Council (Various Roads Hunton and Yalding) (Weight Limit) Order 2010, is temporarily suspended for the duration of the Experimental Order

1. Lughorse Lane, Entire length.
2. West Street - From its junction with Lughorse Lane.
3. Mill Lane - From the junction with West Street to the B2162 Benover Road.
4. Vicarage Road - From the junction with Mill Lane to the junction with B2010 High Street Yalding.

That the Order making authority will be considering in due course whether the provisions of the experimental Order should be continued in force indefinitely and should be made permanent, a further Notice shall be published.

A copy of the Order, which comes into operation on Monday 17th December 2012 for a experimental period not exceeding 18 months, an explanatory statement and map showing the length of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ and Maidstone Borough Council Offices, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ.

Any person wishing to **support or to object to it**, must do so in writing quoting the name of the Order and reference **(TRO/Experimental/Maidstone Borough/7.5 Tonne Weight Restriction)** to The Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk and stating their reasons, not later than Monday 10th day of June 2013.

HIGHWAYS - SHEPWAY AREA

A260 CANTERBURY ROAD, FOLKESTONE
(10 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during the refurbishment of bridge expansion joints, Kent County Council has made an Order imposing a temporary maximum speed limit of 10 miles per hour on the A260 Canterbury Road, Folkestone, on or after 10 December 2012 for up to 4 nights, between 20:00 hrs through until 06:00 hrs each night.

This affects the section of road in the vicinity of the bridge over the A20 Trunk Road.

The Order applies when the relevant signs are on display, and is in conjunction with temporary traffic lights and a "Convoy System" to escort traffic through the roadworks.

There will also be a 40 mph Speed Limit in advance of the works, as follows

A260 CANTERBURY ROAD - northbound - to the north of the junction with Crete Road West northwards to a point beyond the roadworks

A260 WHITEHORSE HILL - southbound - to the south of the White Horse Hill Roundabout southwards to a point beyond the roadworks

ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD - westbound - from the entrance to Khimera Farm to where it joins the A260 Canterbury Road

The speed limits will only apply when the convoy working is in place, and the relevant signs are displayed on site.

DARBY ROAD (FOOTPATH), FOLKESTONE
(RESTRICTIONS ON PEDESTRIANS)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of improvement works, Kent County Council has made an Order to prohibit the pedestrian use of the footpath linking Darby Road with Foord Road North, Folkestone, on or after 10 December 2012 for up to 2 weeks. There will be a further closure from 7 January 2013 for up to 1 week.

The footpath will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via Darby Road, Darby Place, Guildhall Street North, Copthall Gardens, Grace Hill and Foord Road.

HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

HIGH STREET, AYLESFORD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new gas, water and electricity supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Street, Aylesford, on or after 10 December 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside of Court Farm.

The alternative route is via Bull Lane, Pilgrims Way, Rochester Road.

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, PADDOCK WOOD)
(WEIGHT RESTRICTION) ORDER 2012
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council has made an Order under Sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to:-

Prohibit any vehicle, laden or unladen with a gross weight which exceeds 7.5 tonnes to proceed along both Lucks Lane and Wagon Lane, Paddock Wood, from their junctions with Maidstone Road (B2160) to their junctions with Queen Street.

Access rights will be maintained for all vehicles requiring legitimate access to or from any premises situated on these roads.

This will be for improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs.

A copy of the proposed Order, which comes into operation on 10/12/2012, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Kent County Council Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders..

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS)
(20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS)

AMENDMENT NO. 2 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council has made an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which is to :-

1) Implement a 40 mile per hour speed limit along Lady Oak Lane (B2079) from its junction with London Road (A21) to a point 775 metres north of this junction.2) Implement a 50 mile per hour speed limit along Lady Oak Lane and Bedgebury Road (B2079) from a Point 775 metres north of it junction with London Road (A21) to a point 250 metres south of its junctions with Balcombes Hill.

A copy of the proposed Order, which comes into operation on 10/12/2012, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Kent County Council Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, TUNBRIDGE WELLS)
(PROHIBITION OF MOTOR VEHICLES) ORDER 2012
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council in exercise of their powers under Sections (1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act, has made an Order, the effect of which would be to:-

Prohibit any motor vehicle or mechanically propelled vehicles along the length of the service road fronting properties 279 to 321 St Johns Road and along the entire length of St Johns Park, Tunbridge Wells.

Access rights will be maintained for all vehicles requiring legitimate access to or from any property situated on these roads.

A copy of the proposed Order, which comes into operation on 10/12/2012, together with an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Kent County Council Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or any instrument made thereunder, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Orders.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 9th December 2012**

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council



Fairy Fergy says you shall go to the ball!

SEE PAGE 47



KNOLE NOEL

Traditional carols in the Great Hall of a stately home

SEE PAGE 48

Kent Weekend



Travelling light

The Gypsy Queens

SEE PAGE 43

PLUS: Shake off the chains and try an independent Italian - **food and drink p46** No nonsense from new Toledo - **driving p51**

Meet your perfect partner through your local trusted dating service

Call: 0800 032 9100 to place a free ad



Women Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 or call 0906 635 0508

(T&C's below)

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915**

JOYCE 82, widow, seeking man who is fun loving and good humoured for meals out, 60-70's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067**

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891**

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774**

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899**

MARY 61, lot to give, likes country/western, animals, gardening, dancing, seeking someone special. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399269**

RETIRED teacher, blonde, 5ft 4ins, medium build, youthful, easy-going, likes most things, seeks tall, refined gent for meaningful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397363**

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843**

MICHELLE petite fun female, outgoing, enjoys holiday abroad, OHAC and pretty self-sufficient, looking for someone to share a LTR with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399515**

SENSUAL female looking to enjoy life a little more, seeking likeminded male to enjoy interesting conversations over dinner, hopefully furthering our experience. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399195**

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391**

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751**

52YR old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389891**

SUSIE young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389027**

LYN 59, slim, fair, looking for someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397347**

BLACK African lady, late 30's, no ties, likes country walks, gardening, cinema, seaside, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393272**

DEBBIE 50, seeking man, 60 plus with GSOH for fun nights out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398173**

MARGARET 57, looking for male companionship with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390248**

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189**

SANDRA outgoing 53, carer, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390230**

48YR old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797**

FEMALE looking for male for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392365**

WIDOW 70's, many interests, seeks gent who misses companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396401**

SUE 53, slim, blue eyes, likes football, animals, seeks N/S male, 45-55 for loving, lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386247**

FEMALE likes country walks, gardening, animals, seeks male for company, meals out and nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390147**

LYNETTE 60, South African, new to area, N/S, sociable, like the outdoors, looking for new friends. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386387**

HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, likes life, fit, active, seeks male, 60 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393065**

DEBBIE 47, single parent, likes motorsport, seeking male with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398127**

YOUNG looking lady, late 50's, medium build, caring, intelligent, seeks kind, caring, intelligent man with GSOH of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398095**

ANNETTE 58, 5ft 1ins, cuddly, affectionate, likes animals, seeks kind, gentleman to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394923**

LOUISE loving, caring, thoughtful lady, likes photography, countryside, animals, seeks mature, N/S, genuine, caring, N/S gent with car to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397239**

BLACK female, 30, likes animals, swimming, music, singing, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395941**

for nights out and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387173**

PICK AN ADVERT AND MAKE A DATE TODAY!

LUCY kind caring, honest, fuller figured, blonde, blue eyes, 44, looking for older man, kind, caring and honest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395805**

45YR old female, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, cuddly, curvaceous, love animals, music, sports, seeks kind, caring, sincere, mature male, 40 plus with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381319**

PAT widowed mid 60's blonde female, loves dancing, happy-go-lucky WLTM similar aged nice male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389195**



*18+ Only. Texts to 65125 cost £1.50/msg, min of 2 msgs. To STOP text STOP to 65125 See t/cs below

FEMALE 21, brown eyes, loving, looking for male, 20-30 for nights in and loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396057**

INTERESTING attractive, uncomplicated, intelligent lady, many interests, seeks honourable, kind gent, 68-75 for long term companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392211**

FOLKESTONE lady, 58, 5ft 1ins, animal lover, cuddly, affectionate, GSOH, seeks male, 58-63 to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395551**

SUE 54, fairly slim, blue eyes, brown hair, seeks male, 45-55, N/S, likes football, sports, meals out etc., looking for lasting relationship and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392803**

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, medium build, 49, bubbly, looking for male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386401**

CLAUDIA curvy size 20, Mediterranean, blonde hair, brown eyes, seeks mature male, 40-55 for friendship, companionship and enjoy life together. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373611**

HAPPY go lucky lady, seeks tall, honest guy, 50-56 hopefully with a boat. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392529**

PAT 67, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, widow, likes dancing, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390201**

KENTISH lady, 50, no longer wishes to make do or mend broken heart, seeks kind gent to form patchwork moments. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392865**

CARING affectionate female, 64, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, seeks male, 60-70 with GSOH for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384871**

BLACK lady, 52, likes cinema, nights in/out, seeking male, 49-55 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390925**

SANDRA 63, likes cuddles, varied interests, WLTM male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383497**

SUSIE from Kent, seeking tall honest guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375883**

MARY likes most things, nights out, socialising, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383847**

LONELY Folkestone lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, medium build, N/S, seeks caring, considerate male for walks by the sea and pubs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371067**

LISA tall slim elegant black lady looking for gentleman for company, 50-90yrs. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391394**

BEVERLEY 33, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-45 for walks, karaoke and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375217**

HAZEL blonde, 62, pretty, cuddly, N/S, non drinker, seeks genuine, attractive male, 55-65 for fun and friendship. Ramsgate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366319**

Men Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 (T&C's below)

DEREK 52, black male, honest, trustworthy, loyal, hardworking, likes nights out, meals out, quiet pubs, seeking similar lady for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393886**

FUN fit, friendly 50yr old male, medium build, seeking female for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400045**

JACK 28, fun loving, seeking female to share the good and bad times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393878**

DOWN to earth 49yr old male, GSOH, OHAC, happy go lucky, fit, intelligent, witty, many interests, seeks young at heart female to share life experiences with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399965**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, GSOH, kind, considerate, easy going, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399935**

LONELY male, 75, 6ft, N/S, OHAC, seeks lady for friendship/companionship to share our twilight years. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393830**

51YR old male, dark hair, 6ft, N/S, good looking, likes finer things in life, seeks lady for fun times and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399867**

47YR old female, 5ft 6ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389413**

TERRI young at heart, fit, caring, N/S, 70's, many interests, Taurus, seeks kind, N/S gent, 65-70 with GSOH to share life and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390671**

WANNABEE stay at home home maker, educated, well built, loving, 54, seeks sincere, loving gent, 58-68 for happy LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391328**

63YR old female, loving, tactile, seeks genuine male, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381863**

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, DVDs, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337**

MAIDSTONE lady, pretty, petite, late 50's, honest, caring, N/S, loves life and most things, seeks nice guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366501**

JULIE late 70's, petite, widowed, seeks gent with car and GSOH who loves animals. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379277**

SHARON 50, widowed, looking for nice gent to take out to theatre, cinema, country walks and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384497**

PLEASANT single black male, slim, 41, good natured, likes most things, seeks likeminded lady for possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399825**

YOUNG 64yr old male, slim, GSOH, adventurous, outgoing, likes most things, seeks easy going, laidback, open-minded lady for friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399539**

BRIAN 6ft 3ins, medium build, dark hair, seeking romantic, caring lady for meals out, nights in, cuddles and true love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399451**

ADRIAN young 59, likes travel, sports, seeks fun, attractive lady 40-50's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399355**

20YR old male, looking for female, 45-50 for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393676**

BOBBY 39, Afro/Asian decent, dark hair/eyes, likes nights in/out, walks, animals, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398147**

PAUL 51, blond, blue eyes, fed up, likes walks, nights in/out seeks lady, 50-60 for friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398991**

PHIL young 63, GSOH, 6ft, medium build, easy going, seeking female, all woman for lots of love and attention. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399149**

YOUNG toy boy, GSOH, seeks mature, attractive, curvy lady, 45-55 for fun times and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398419**

74YR old widower, honest, fit, likes walks, weekends away, seeks lady for companionship. Maidstone/Medway area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398247**

RAY 41, shy, likes gardening, allotments, mopeds, seeks shy lady 41-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397301**

MALE 67, 14st, tall, educated, happy go lucky, seeks nice female, 50-65 for companionship. Folkestone/Deal area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398743**

RICHARD seeking young female for good times and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397883**

WIDOWER 70, lonely, fed up, seeks female for nights out, meals and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397875**

MARTYN 45, average guy, likes films, theatre, meals out, GSOH, seeks similar female for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397863**

RICHARD 60, 5ft 11ins, medium build, N/S, driver, looking for female for meals out, places of interest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393508**

THANET male, smart, young 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive, local soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398661**

ROGER 56, smoker, brown hair/eyes, average build, likes most things, seeks female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397243**

DAN 44, fun, seeking nice female to share Sundays and lonely Winter nights with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398425**

PAUL 63, white, N/S, GSOH, varied interests, considerate, reliable, caring, seeks romantic, understanding lady, 47-67 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398971**

GHOST researcher 65, slim, dark hair, WLTM amiable, slim female companion in Canterbury/Folkestone area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398937**

72YR old male, seeking lady, 50-70, give me a call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393393**

MARK 49, likes running, music, cinema, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393554**

RICHARD dark hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, 5ft 6ins, likes holidays, theatre, travel, countryside, walks, meals out, seeks female, 37-69 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398767**

HANDSOME tall guy 40's, slim, smart, climber, skier, holidayed, happy disposition, seeks slim, petite lady for great relationship/times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397271**

PROFESSIONAL male, OHAC, independent, early 40's, likes good things in life, seeks warm, sincere female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398115**

ALAN 72, WLTM someone nice, age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393719**

MALE mid 40's, medium build, loving, kind, caring, loyal, seeks female, 46-58, size 14-20 for loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391662**

47YR old good looking, slim male, looking for fun loving, slim, attractive local female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391508**

Gay Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to connect and chat with other men look no further TXT: **GAY601** to **65125** for 3 chat matches, fun and safe service. **(T&C's below)**

Go online - www.localgay-date.co.uk

GAY male, new to scene, seeks male, 50-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400025**

MUSCULAR male, likes wrestling, fast cars, seeks similar dominant male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399939**

BI guy 44, looking for broadminded bi guy 45 plus for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395165**

STEVE 45, bi, CD, green eyes, seeking TV/CD for daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397621**



Women TEXT FOR FUN!

*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. **Texts cost £1.50** per message Help Desk: **0844 445 7707**

GUYS TEXT FOR FUN. SEND KOS followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to **66888**
(T&C's below)

50Yr old Christian brunette, attractive, friendly, lonely, likes bowling, reading, cooking, outdoor life**. Text KOS 154567 to 66888**

BEAUTIFUL thing, attractive lady, n/s, beautician, enjoys fashion, antique fairs, days out & country drives. Want to know more. Text me**. Text KOS 159134 to 66888**

FUN blue eyed blonde, a little dizzy at times but a big bundle of fun. **Text KOS 163788 to 66888**

HEY guys! My interests include music, reading, tattoos, cooking, hanging out with mates and many more things. Text me! **Text KOS 168355 to 66888**

I AM an adventurous, outgoing and loyal person. I enjoy going places and trying new things I am a very active person. **Text KOS 172922 to 66888**

FUN, bubbly, happy go lucky, single, mummy, work hard, play hard, friends, family, horse, gym, wine, movies, random nights **Text KOS 218842 to 66888**

I LOVE going out and having a laugh. Im new to all this, so be patient lol. **Text KOS 182056 to 66888**

Men TEXT FOR FUN!

*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. **Texts cost £1.50** per message Help Desk: **0844 445 7707**

LADIES TEXT FOR FUN. SEND KOS followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to **66888**
(T&C's below)

DIVORCED Male 59, VGSOH, n/s easy-going, enjoy music, poker, cooking, watch football, having a pint in a local pub. **Text KOS 488556 to 66888**

I LOVE the arts, countryside and eating out. Honest, sensuous, with lots to share and give. **Text KOS 493123 to 66888**

I HAVE many interests but derive pleasure from everyday things,whether it be a walk in the park or a coffee by the river. **Text KOS 497690 to 66888**

ROMANTIC guy. I have many interests, but derive pleasure from everyday things, whether it be a walk in a park or coffee by the river. **Text KOS 502257 to 66888**

SPORTY gentleman. 46 yo I have a fun friendly chatty personality! Drop me a line :) **Text KOS 506824 to 66888**

Contact members by phone:

0906 515 7112

See who has left you a message:

0906 515 7114

(09065 cost £1.53p/m)

Customer Support

0844 800 1188

Friendship

JACK mature male, Thanet area, seeks friends of either sex, any age for chats. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399455**

STRAIGHT male, 39, Medway, seeks pals for socialising, likes pubs, cinema, golf, table tennis, football. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398421**

Contact members by TEXT!

If an advert has a ✉ next to it then you can reply to this advertiser by text message. Simply send **KOS** followed by the box number of the advertiser you wish to respond to plus your message and send it to 66888*

(£1.50 per message sent)

Take a look at our members!

When you see a 📷 symbol, this mean the member has a photo. Text **PIC397**(space)the advertisers mailbox number, and send to 88833* to receive it straight to your mobile.

(£1.50 per pic sent)

Show us your smile!

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THE INTERVIEW

The Gypsy Queens

Journeymen finally make the big time

From busking to performing for the stars, Jason King tells **Joe Bill** how The Gypsy Queens have quietly achieved success



MAKING ALL THE RIGHT NOISES: Jason King, second right, joined The Gypsy Queens after jamming with them when the band played a gig in Nice

WHAT DO Paul McCartney, Dolly Parton, Norah Jones and Michael Bublé all have in common? Other than fame, fortune and a stack of hit records, of course.

Each of them started out as buskers.

Well, now there's another name to take the street-music mantle as The Gypsy Queens set Europe alight.

Newly signed to Universal's London Records, five musicians who met on the streets of Nice in France will leave behind them the days of passing around an ashtray to collect money.

The Gypsy Queens will release their debut album on Monday, December 10, and contrabass-player Jason King from Kent could not be happier.

"Queens kind of started about 10 years ago, and I've only been in the band for about four.

"It began with a group of musicians travelling around from Switzerland to Paris to Nice, following the tourists and busking on the streets. That's where the band came from."

Jason grew up in East Farleigh, near Maidstone, attending what is now the Cornwallis Academy before turning his interest in music into a successful career.

"As I was growing up, I got into going to country pubs and meeting blues and funk guys and just jamming with them.

"I was also playing in bands and working in London quite a lot, but I found this bar in Nice who used to have these English bands come across and play, so I used to go out there on little working holidays.

"The Gypsy Queens came and played there and that's when I met them."

The Queens are made up of Italian lead singer Didier Casnati, Mexican drummer Manuel Polin, Norwegian guitarist Anders Klunderud and American saxophonist Jay Metcalfe, who all met while playing their instruments on the streets.

"The group needed a new bass-player and I had started jamming with them and they asked me to join. I'm quite a big fan of spending time somewhere sunny and amazing, so when this opportunity came up I just said yes.

"When I came back to England from that particular working holiday, I moved out of my apartment, sold all my stuff and moved to France. I have been on the road ever since."

With a settled line-up in The Gypsy Queens, success gained momentum, King remembers.

"People started inviting the band to play at their parties and dinners and it snowballed from there. It had been building up slowly before it exploded.

"The big-break moment came when we met the head of the label that signed us. He was working for Universal, came and watched us a few times and loved us – that's when it got big."

The band went on to play for Elton John, Rod Stewart, Quincy Jones, Robert De Niro, Brad Pitt, David Beckham, Prince William, Prince Harry and 44 heads of state, becoming the go-to group for exclusive parties and events.

In an era of reality TV pop idols, The Gypsy Queens have done it the hard way, racking up more than 3,000 gigs in 44 countries, taking the word-of-mouth method to a whole new level.

King, 39, said: "We have played for Bono and Janet Jackson, proper superstars, so it's always kind of nerve-racking when you know you're going to play for these people.

"But when you turn up to their party and they're all having dinner, that kind of disappears because you realise they're just normal people having dinner and enjoying themselves."

The Queens' big break came about two years ago when the band were playing their usual gig in Nice's Le Petite Maison and in walked Nick Raphael, then working for Sony, now the newly-installed president of a reborn London Records

So the story goes, U2's Bono was also in the restaurant that night and he and Queens lead singer Casnati were swapping jokes during the show, which had Raphael enquiring as to who the group were. The rest is history.

The name could be seen as an endorsement of the group's regal qualities, but they're not to be confused with the very popular Gypsy Kings.

"Didier gave us the name about eight years ago for a laugh and it just stuck. After 10 years of gigging, people get to know the name, so you can't change it.

"The Gypsy Kings are really cool guys – we have played for them and with them a few times and they're a great bunch, so there's no rivalry there."

The Queens even borrow one of the Kings' most recognised songs, Volare, for their new album.

"We also do a great cover of Marrakesh Express by Crosby, Stills & Nash. It's an old song, but we were really happy to get to record that, especially as it features Graham Nash himself – it was a bit of a dream come true."

The eponymous debut LP features the much-loved L'Americano featuring Madeleine Peyroux, as well as the track Ventura Highway featuring Booker T Jones and Dewey Bunnell.

The band's rustic sound has attracted fans from across the globe.

"We're travelling all the time, playing for Spanish people, French people or Italians, so our album has become of a mixture of songs. It's good fun to not just do standard pop or rock all the time. It's nice to bang out the varied tracks."

The Gypsy Queens play up to 200 shows a year, but they are offered at least 600, with Kent firmly on the list for King to try to squeeze in at some point.

"The future? Well, I'll be honest with you. It is an absolute adventure – none of us really know what to expect.

"At the end of the day we're a bunch of buskers, so whatever happens we'll just fit in with it."

■ **For more information about The Gypsy Queens' album, visit www.gypsyqueens.com**

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PERFECT **CHRISTMAS**

Make sure this festive season is as wonderful as Christmases past

WHEN that troublesome snowman melts and the little boy is devastated to find his new pal gone... that is the moment Christmas is encapsulated.

The hope that the snowman brings, the joy that he gives to the little boy, is what everyone should feel during the festive season.

It is a time to relax, to spend time with your family, to catch up with old friends and a time when we can all spread some cheer. That doesn't have to come through the endless giving of presents – it can be making a gesture in the office such as bringing in cakes for everyone to share; it can be as simple as saying "Merry Christmas!" as you pass each other in the street.

We as a nation should take this opportunity to be happy and try to put aside the problems that might plague us during the rest of the year.

There is no other time of year when everyone can tune in to hear angelic carols or popular Christmas classics or over-indulge in rich foods and sip the traditional mulled wine. The four-week period from the beginning of December to New Year is an exception, so take your chance to have fun!

Christmas is a time for romance and family, take your loved ones on a magical journey to meet Santa at one of Kent's many grottoes, or take a sleigh-ride with reindeer to enhance the experience.

Alternatively, you could just settle down in front of the fire and tuck in to some pudding.

Remember that waking up on Christmas morning is the most exciting thing in the world for youngsters – let them be young and dream of meeting Saint Nicholas.

Remember the glass of milk, the half-eaten mince pie and the carrot for the reindeer; it's all part of the magic. Let Nat King Cole remind you of a Christmas past and cross your fingers to see snowflakes falling as December 25th rolls round once more.

Everyone has their own vision of what Christmas should be and what it means to them, but just use the time available to rejoice and be happy – goodness knows we work hard enough for it during the other 11 months of the year!

Don't be home alone, don't be a grinch, don't think it's uncool to try a festive woolly jumper or wear a paper crown at the dinner table.

Embrace the time of year and it will embrace you.









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Vincenzo service and a great menu show chain Italians aren't Don deal

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

Italian chain restaurants dominate many a high street across the UK, with the likes of Zizzi, Prezzo, Pizza Express and Ask doing very nicely thanks to their value food and simplistic approach to service. Their always-enticing voucher-offers took hold of me for a time until I could eat Italian food no more, so a six-month break ensued.

I have walked past the Don Vicenzo restaurant in Rochester many times and, from the condensation on the windows and blurred outlines of customers, its popularity seems unquestionable. Time to break my Italian fast and get stuck in!

The authenticity hits you from the start, with the traditional tables huddled together so only the well-practised waiting staff are able to nip between them without any upheaval.

The rack of wines, the crucifix on the wall and the Italian TV all scream tradition, as do the staff, who coverse in the native tongue. Behind the high counter the chef's head bobs up and down, with the occasional toss of dough into the air as the smell of freshly-cooked pizza fills the arena.

Fresh bread with oil and vinegar joined us at the table as my guest and I chose our starters. He went for the melenzan alla parmigiana – aubergine layers with mozzarella, basil, Parmesan and tomato sauce. The plate was cleared and a nod of the head was enough to show me that the dish



was approved. The portion size was perfect also. I went for the antipasto di salumi italiani, a mixture of cured meats and olives including Parma ham, salami and prescutio. All excellent flavours and presented nicely.

I felt that maybe some salad or a little extra bread would have made the dish perfect. For mains, my guest went vegetarian and tried the cannelloni vegetariani – pancakes filled with ricotta cheese and spinach, submerged in a tomato and béchamel white sauce.

A quick taste of the little my guest allowed me meant I could confirm again the use of fresh ingredients and no stodge, which can sometimes come over with a canneloni. I went for the linguine alla putanesca – linguine pasta with capers, olives and anchovies in a tomato sauce.

That fresh fishy taste of the sardines and capers was strong but not overpowering. The pasta was cooked to perfection and the portion size was again excellent for what could easily become an over-filling dish. The black olives were too little and too few to add an extra dimension to the taste, but this was a really enjoyable dish.

To finish, I went for the slightly-overpriced (£6) torta al cioccolato: warm chocolate cake served with Italian vanilla ice-cream.

I tend to stick by the rule that a dessert has to be exceptional to be more than £5 in a high-street restaurant, but the cake came close to changing my mind. It was covered in the cocoa gold without being too sickly, while the warm sponge and ice-cream cold always satisfies.

The service was good and the price with drinks just £55, proving that the traditional eatery really can break the chains.

Joe Bill

■ **Don Vincenzo, 108 High Street Rochester ME1 1JT (telephone 01634 408373; website www.donvincenzo.co.uk)**

Website will reveal the cleanest places to eat

A FOOD-hygiene campaign that will help people decide where to eat has been launched in Maidstone.

The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme is being welcomed by switched-on pubs, clubs and food businesses as a way of attracting business by highlighting their high standards of cleanliness.

There are 500 businesses in the Maidstone borough with a rating of 5, and those invited to the launch event at Maidstone United's Gallagher Stadium were selected randomly from the top-scorers.

The new system allows the public to check the ratings of venues simply by visiting www.food.gov.uk/ratings.

Christmas Day on a plate at Rocksalt

AS part of a growing trend, the latest county restaurant to announce its own Christmas Day menu is Rocksalt in Folkestone.

Mark Sargeant's eatery will remain open across the festive period, offering meals on Christmas Eve for £75 per person, Christmas Day for £85 per person and New Year's Eve for £95 each.

In addition to these, there is a festive-party menu priced at just £30 per person for three courses, with a canape-and-bowlfood menu on the bar at £35 per person.

For more details, phone 01303 212070 or email info@rocksaltfolkestone.co.uk.



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Meeting the big guy... Father Christmas

Calverley Grounds, Tunbridge Wells
Throughout December
www.tunbridgewellsatchristmas.com
Tickets £9.50

FATHER Christmas and his mischievous elves will be making a list and checking it twice at the Calverley Grounds during December.

Families can book to meet Father Christmas on selected dates, with every child receiving a lovely gift and a glass-framed family photograph with Santa as a memento.

Everything is included in the ticket price of £9.50 for children (no fee for adults or children under one with a paying child).

Visitors can also enjoy a turn on the rink, before or after seeing Santa.

You can buy tickets at the Assembly Hall Theatre or at Calverley Grounds. See online when Father Christmas is open to visitors.

Soapy panto Fairy Fergison and Cinders

The Central Theatre, Chatham
Thursday, Dec 13-Sunday, Jan 6
01634 338338
www.chathampanto.com

GET ready for some Christmas magic in Medway at this year's dazzling panto, Cinderella, at The Central Theatre.

Presented by pantomime-producer Evolution, this year's cast features Cheryl Fergison, the lovable Heather Trott from EastEnders.

Fergison will play the fairy godmother, while the brilliant comedy impressionist and Britain's Got Talent finalist Paul Burling will star as Cinerella's helper, Buttons.

Watch out for the wicked stepmother and stepsisters and help Cinderella get to the ball on time.

Tickets are on sale now and start at £15 for adults. Discounts are available for under-16s, seniors and group bookings.



The queen of the jazz feast Clare Teal

Pizza Express, Maidstone
Tickets £28
Saturday, December 15
www.clareteal.co.uk

CLARE Teal is one of the most successful female British jazz singers in decades, with a string of albums behind her, including the multi-award-winning Don't Talk.

After a successful 2011 during which Teal supported Liza Minnelli on tour and performed with The John Wilson Orchestra as part of the BBC Proms, the performer continued with an equally busy 2012, taking her Feeling Good tour around the UK.

Dubbed 'Britain's Queen of Swing', Teal presents two weekly big-band shows for BBC Radio 2, writes a newspaper column and has performed for the Duke of Edinburgh at Windsor Castle alongside Sir Tim Rice and Rick Wakeman.

Tickets for her gig at Pizza Express Maidstone cost £28.



Geordie joker Chris Ramsey the fun buck

Stag arts centre, Sevenoaks
Thursday, January 10
01732 450175
www.stagsevenoaks.co.uk

OUTSIDE THE BOX comedy returns to the Stag arts centre next month, with big names topping the bill.

The man of the moment Chris Ramsey headlines the evening of stand-up, with OTB creator Maff Brown, Carl Hutchinson and Barry Castagnola all in support.

Geordie funnyman Ramsey, who has been appearing in hit comedy Hebburn, has toured the UK circuit for a couple of years despite his young age.

Most comedy fans will recognise him from his numerous appearances on Never Mind The Buzzcocks, Celebrity Juice, 8 Out Of Ten Cats and BBC's Live At The Apollo.

Doors open at 7.30pm and tickets are priced at £15.



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BEGIN your Christmas at Knole Park in Sevenoaks with a traditional carol concert in the Great Hall.

Listen to the Knole Park Singers bring their much-loved annual mix of solos, duets and choral performances in three spectacular concerts, rounded off with mulled wine and mince pies around an open fire.

On Sunday, December 9, there will be a performance between 5.30pm and 7.30pm.

There are two further performances on Sunday, December 16, from 2.30pm and 4.30pm and again in the evening between 5.30pm and 7.30pm.

Tickets cost £23 per person and booking is essential. For more information, email knole@nationaltrust.org.uk.

A new carol
Premiere at family event

Canterbury Cathedral
Friday, December 14, at 7pm
01227 787787
www.canterbury.co.uk

CANTERBURY Choral Society's annual Family Carols event at Canterbury Cathedral will have something a little different this year.

The group has commissioned one of the UK's most performed and respected composers, Paul Patterson, to write a new carol, which will be premiered by the society and the youth choir at the event.

The text for the new carol was taken from a 13th-century medieval verse and is entitled Beyond The Day and is for choir, organ and brass.

Richard Cooke, conductor and artistic director, said: "We were left a legacy and decided to commission a new carol which would be a legacy in itself."

Adult tickets for Family Carols are priced at £7; children under 16 pay £4.



Blondie in the forest
Pinetum punk

Bedgebury Pinetum, near Tunbridge Wells
Saturday, June 22, 2013
Tickets priced at £36
www.forestry.gov.uk/music or 03000 680400

AFTER successful gigs featuring the likes of Will Young and Tears For Fears, the Forestry Commission has announced legendary punk band Blondie will play next year.

The New Yorkers will headline the mini-festival at Bedgebury Pinetum as part of the annual concert series Forest Live.

Blondie are known for such hits as Denis, Heart Of Glass, Atomic and Call Me.

Support will come from indie rockers The Lightning Seeds.

All money raised at the gigs is put back into the Forestry Commission. Tickets are on sale now priced at £36.

Snow dragon
Fire-breathing festive magic

The Gulbenkian, Canterbury
Tue to Sun, December 11-23
01227 769075
www.thegulbenkian.co.uk

FROM the company that brought you The Gruffalo and Room On The Broom comes The Snow Dragon.

Adapted from the book by Toby Mitchell and Anna Lewenhaupt, The Snow Dragon is themed on fun, morality and decision-making.

Join in for story-telling, comedy, presents, Christmas and songs that create a magical, mysterious world for everyone aged three and over. The night of the Snow Dragon approaches...

The Gulbenkian will also have the British Sign Language-interpreted performance on Wednesday, December 19, at 1pm as part of the show's run.

Full-priced tickets are £8, with schools tickets at £7.















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First GEAR
MOTORING NEWS

- New Cabriolet Beetle keeps the story moving
- Mazda's CX-5 SUV is voted Japan's top car
- Kia Proceed unveiled as glimpse into future



Dacia makes waves with cheapest car on sale in UK market

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



SEAT TOLEDO

Price: £12,495
Driving appeal: Not driven yet
Image: ★★★
Space: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★
How green?: ★★★★
Best rival: Skoda Rapid

Toledo cuts straight to budget needs after Seat identity crisis

IF there's a pattern as to how VW-Audi markets its Seat brand, then I can't see it.

The Spanish marque used to be touted as the group's sporting arm, but now it's a sort of crowd-pleasing sporting budget mainstream luxury brand.

This identity crisis is exemplified by a range containing the under-rated Exeo executive flagship – a spin-off from Audi's previous A4 – and the budget-price Mii city car, plus the newly-launched Toledo.

In the past, the Toledo has been a sporting saloon and this fitted nicely with its namesake Spanish city's reputation for cutting edges – Toledo is famous for making swords and, latterly, razor blades.

The latest car to bear the name isn't so sharp, though, except on price and versatility; it's a lot of car for £12,495 and the saloon profile disguises a hatchback opening into a big 550-litre boot.

The cabin is huge, with a long wheelbase enabling the Toledo to carry four adults in comfort and squeeze in another, meaning that it can attack cars in the bigger Mondeo market.

Running costs are compatible with the Toledo's true market, placing in the family hatchback or Golf/Focus segment, with fuel economy, low CO_2 emissions, affordable insurance and company-car benefit-in-kind ratings as low as 14 per cent – it's a car for straitened times.

The 1.6 TDI 105PS (104bhp) diesel and turbocharged 1.2 TSI 105PS petrol versions feature the marque's Ecomotive Technology, including a start/stop engine system, which saves fuel by cutting power when the car is stopped and in neutral, and an energy-recovery system to recapture brake energy and help power the car's electrics. Crash testing by EuroNCAP has also added a maximum five-star safety rating to the car's credentials.

But it's the ultra-cheap headline price that will get many would-be buyers into Seat dealerships, even if entry-level 'E' spec is quite basic and most buyers will trade up to 'S' grade (from £14,120), which includes air-con, electric-heated door mirrors, rear-screen-wiper, air-con, Bluetooth with voice control, a USB port, remote audio controls, split folding rear seats, height-adjustable driver's seat and remote central locking. Many will probably then pay a little extra or negotiate to put right the omission of smart alloys from that list.

However, they may realise that the Toledo is not the only deal on the table, because this car is also a clone of the Skoda Rapid, designed by Seat's Czech sister brand – both versions are produced in a Skoda factory.

Seat fans may know, too, that the Toledo is not the only Seat deal available either, since an all-new Leon hatchback arrives in March, priced from £15,670 and promising to be a good-looking sporting model in the past best tradition of the Spanish brand.





CHANGING PLACES: In the past the Toledo was marketed as a sporting saloon, but the latest car isn't so sharp, except on price and versatility, while it has a much larger cabin

DON'T LIKE

... how the Toledo highlights apparent confusion in Seat's marketing strategy, though it could be confirmation of a new course as a budget brand.

NOT SURE

... established Seat fans will like the Toledo's no-nonsense business pitch, but it could enable the brand to recruit a new army of thrifty recruits.

REALLY LIKE

... the broad-based, blunt appeal of this new aggressively-priced Seat, even if it owes most of its existence to Czech sister brand Skoda.





DEALS ON WHEELS: Dacia lands in the UK with its Duster SUV, far left, and the cheapest car to go on sale in Britain – the Sandero supermini

Dacia launches with budget appeal

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ROMANIAN brand Dacia returns to the UK with a bang soon by offering what it claims will be the cheapest new car on our market.

Dacia may be remembered by some for selling a flimsy 4x4 called the Duster during the late 80s and early 90s. Since then the company has been bought and modernised by Renault to offer a budget option from the Renault group, which also includes Nissan.

Demand for cars from this revitalised Dacia has been so strong in mainland Europe that it seemed like building stock to suit British right-hand-drive needs was well down the priority list.

But order books are now open for two debut models: a new SUV wearing the old Duster model name and priced from just £8,995 and the Sandero supermini at just £5,995.

But it's the Dacia Dimensions Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) deal on the Sandero that catches the eye: £69 a month for three years, after a deposit of £1,845. Dacia says that makes the Sandero Britain's most affordable new car.

PCP deals on the Duster are not much dearer – a £3,179 deposit secures a package of £99 per month.

For those worried about spending out on a relatively unknown brand, Dacia is also offering modest and fully refundable £100 deposits for those who order now – deliveries for both cars start early next year.

And while the Dacia warranty is the industry's normal three years/60,000 miles rather than the five- and even seven-year tickets from some, Dacia is offering five-year/60,000 miles and seven-year/100,000 miles peace-of-mind upgrades, costing £395 and £850 respectively.

There's even a deal allowing the five-year warranty to be wrapped into a five-year hire-purchase plan.

With the UK economy still a worry, launching a whole new motor brand is a risk, but maybe not when the prices are this keen and hard-pressed consumers want to nail down exactly what their monthly motoring costs will be.

You can book a test drive for the following dates and Motorline Dacia locations: Maidstone (Monday, December 10), Ashford (Tuesday, December 11) and Canterbury (Wednesday, December 12).

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BMW ensures original lifestyle estate is still ahead of its rivals

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MORE than any other car, the BMW 3 Series created the 'lifestyle estate' concept.

The second-generation model of the 1980s – the 'Yuppy' favourite – was the first '3' to get the load-lugger back end and Touring label and it went down a storm.

Instead of estates being seen simply as tools for tradesmen, reps and farmers, they became desirable to those who liked to suggest that they went huntin', shootin' and fishin' at weekends or owned a country cottage.

Other brands jumped on the bandwagon and most estate cars now wear a fancy label and cater more for lifestyle buyers than those who genuinely need a wagon for large loads.

Not that the latest BMW Touring is a lightweight here; the newly-launched sixth-generation car (from £26,125) claims to have the most load space in its class yet it's the sleekest-looking estate car around – and that certainly wasn't always the case.

Even the original E30 was not the most elegant. Style also strayed on generations four and five, but the new car and its saloon sister mark a return to conservative elegance and class.

It looks wider, lower and meaner even though it is actually slightly narrower than before, a trick played by the wider treatment of BMW's trademark grille, which used to be likened to twin kidneys but has evolved far from that now.

The wheelbase is even longer, too, adding to the wheel-at-each-corner big-car look and improving rear accommodation – something for which the previous car was criticised.

But the latest 3 Series is also a highly tax-friendly eco-warrior, being lighter and using the latest in BMW's EfficientDynamics fuel and emissions-saving technology.

But if this all adds to BMW's long-standing publicity line – The Ultimate Driving Machine – we need to recall that this was originally coined to highlight the car's appeal to keen drivers.

And the new car – green and efficient though it undoubtedly is – doesn't disappoint, even in the line-up's biggest-selling and probably most sensible model, the two-litre diesel 320d.

This is the mainstay version behind the 3 Series' presence in the top 10 of UK best-sellers; company-car-man loves it and his fleet manager or leasing company idolises it, too, because there is an army of would-be second-hand buyers to keep residuals sky-high despite the ubiquity of the 3 Series.

And the 320d Touring we road-tested proves that it is a consummate all-rounder: practical, good-looking, frugal – it can average about 60mpg – and a cracking drive.

The key is the new standard-fit Driving Experience Control switch offering Comfort, Sport, Sport + and Eco Pro options for the powertrain and chassis.

An eight-speed automatic gearbox is available on all engines, but ours had the standard slick six-speed manual box; select Eco Pro and you can rack up lots of frugal miles without feeling that you are driving a laggard, but Sport transforms the 320d into a true sporting estate and makes the most of the car's beautifully-balanced rear-driven chassis.

You can even knock out the car's traction control by selecting Sport +, which allows for extra entertainment, though not recommended in the slippery conditions we've had lately.

The car also feels well screwed together, with quality materials and design and fantastic refinement in all situations, whether tootling in town or on a fast motorway dash.

Run-flat tyres have also come a long way in a few years; the test car's clearly aid the car's eco-efficiency but, best of all, deliver lots of grip and a quality ride.

Seems like the original lifestyle estate still defines the type.

BMW 3 SERIES 320d MODERN TOURING: PRICE £30,380



IN A CLASS OF ITS OWN: BMW's latest Touring model has had some restyling so it now looks wider, lower and meaner but is also lighter and one of the most eco-friendly cars in its sector

FACT FILE

Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£100/year
Best rival:	Mercedes C-Class

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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



Soft-top Beetle coming soon

ORDER books are open for the new Volkswagen Beetle Cabriolet (from £18,150) – deliveries start next April.

The story began in 1949 with the original Beetle Convertible, continued with the New Beetle Cabriolet of 2002, and is now beautifully re-executed by the newcomer, which also delivers more boot space, folding rear seats and a hood that rises/lowers in just 9.5 seconds.



CX-5 outguns the favourites

MAZDA'S impressive new light and agile CX-5 SUV has won Japan's coveted Car Of The Year prize, holding off the much-fancied Toyota GT86/Subaru BRZ sports car.

But the contest was also significant for the number of European models showing well: the BMW 3 Series (third), the Range Rover Evoque (fourth), VW Up (fifth), Citroën DS5 (seventh) and Alfa Romeo Giulietta (eighth).



Unveiling of Kia's halo car

THIS is the first glimpse of Kia's much-anticipated Proceed GT hot-hatch – the halo sportster the Korean brand needs to enhance its profile on top of some excellent new models including the Ceed family hatch and Sportage SUV.

The driver-orientated Proceed will launch in the second half of 2013 and features a 1.6-litre turbo-charged petrol engine and six-speed manual box.

OLYMPICS

Remarkable Reverend's career from Games fame to the Church

Sixty years ago, Nicholas Stacey took part in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics and became the 'fastest white man in the world', but that was just the tip of the iceberg for Roger Bannister's pal. He tells his incredible story to **Greg Miles**

THE question of where to start with the story of 1952 Olympian, radical Reverend, social services pioneer, naval officer, and journalist Nicholas Stacey, is a tough one.

The 85-year-old also appeared in one of the most famous sporting moments in history, holding up his friend Roger Bannister as he collapsed after crossing the line at the end of his record-breaking sub four minute mile in 1954.

His rise to the top (he would go to claim the title as 'the fastest white man in the world') started at the end of the 1940s while in the Royal Navy as he begrudgingly took part in sprint races in an athletics competition on his base.

"The sports officer came into the mess one evening and said all officers must take part in the station sports day the next day," he said. "I was rather annoyed to be honest. I said 'put me down for the two shortest events', and I won them.

"He said I had to go to the next event. I won that, then there was the naval championships and I won that – it was all over the period of six weeks. I ended up buying some spiked shoes. I was then made an Olympic possible for the 1948 London Games.

"I trained quite hard because I had left the Navy by then in order to go to Oxford. I trained seriously and ended up as a reserve in the 1948 Games. I went to Oxford in the autumn of 1948 and became a president of the Oxford Athletics Club."

It was there he became good friends with Bannister, and fellow athlete Sir Chris Chataway, who he would later room with at the 1952 summer Games in Helsinki, Finland. Before then, he began representing England at athletics meets around Europe and America in the 200m.

He also ran at the Empire Games in New Zealand in 1950 which it took him five days to get to as he plane hopped from Cairo, to Bombay, Singapore, Freemantle and Sydney to Auckland. It proved a worthwhile trip as he returned with a silver medal in the 4x110 yard relay.

Having finished at Oxford University in 1951 he went to theological college to train to be a priest. It led to an unusual pre-Games preparation, preparation which he recalls had none of the public hype of this past summer - not least because he wasn't expected to win anything.

"I trained for the Olympic Games at the same time as training to be a priest," he said. "I had two hours each afternoon to train. I got special meat from the butcher because there were still food rations.

"I was at the theological college, where we lived a rather monk-like disciplined life. We weren't allowed to speak after 9pm until the next morning and sometimes we were in silence a whole weekend,

"There was a big contrast - I would be doing that and the next weekend I was racing in Paris with 100,000 people cheering me on in the athletics season.

"I was never likely to win the gold medal. Bannister and Chataway were in the running, therefore my name was not in the papers as much as them."

The pressure on athletes, however, was the same then as it was 60 years ago. Rev Stacey, who has been living in Selling, near Faversham, for the last 30 years, recalled how he used to break the unbearable tension by practising his victory ceremony bow.









MEMORIES: Above Nicholas Stacey running for Oxford in 1949. Top right he holds up Roger Bannister following the record-breaking first sub four minute mile in 1954, and middle and bottom right the 1952 Games in Helsinki.

"We were in a camp with all the team mates. All you do is sit in your room when you're not training," he said. "The tension in the Olympic camp is enormous, you're not sight-seeing or womanising. You were concentrating on your race and on winning it.

"Our room was rather a famous one. When the Duke of Edinbourgh came with the Duke of Kent, he was taken to our room partly because we were three Oxford people who were fairly well known. It was a rather untidy room, which others came to to get away from the tension.

"All the boys and girls who were in those stadiums this summer, what they don't understand is the sacrifice the athletes have made over ten years to get there.

"It's a case of many are called but few are chosen. Getting there at all is a triumph."

When it came down to business Mr Stacey just missed out on a place in the 200m final finishing fourth in his semi-final heat. But he claims the tag as the fastest white man in the world at the time as the six finalists were all black.

His Olympic experience, and athletics career, concluded with the final of the 4x400m relay.

"I was the penultimate man off the track after the relay. I gave my shoes to somebody at the side of the track and I haven't run since.

"I didn't enormously enjoy running but I enjoyed winning. Most Olympic sportsmen are by definition ambitious. If you have the feeling of 'after me Claude' you don't win."

Life after the Olympics changed, as he went on to his new career in the Church.

"Anything that was written about me had the ex-Olympic athlete tag. That went on for about ten years," he said. "If you went to a restaurant you got the best table. If you went to a party heads would turn because you were a physical phenomenon I suppose."

■ **Reverend Stacey appeared at the Kent Legends event organised by Kent County Council and the University of Kent on Friday, November 30th. It celebrated past, present and future Olympians from around the county at a glitzy ceremony.**

A radical priest and journalist who took on top job

ATHLETICS has played just a small part in the life of Reverend Nicholas Stacey.

He ran his last race at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki and continued his studies with the Church at Cuddesdown Theological College until he was ordained in 1953.

He was curate of St Mark's Portsea, in Portsmouth until 1958, before becoming a domestic chaplain to the Bishop of Birmingham until 1960. During his time there he founded and edited the tabloid newspaper the Birmingham Church News. A move to London followed as he began an eight year stay as Rector of Woolwich which he is well-remembered for.

He transformed his three parish churches with some radical ideas that were dubbed 'The Woolwich Project'. He reordered one to include offices, meeting and counselling rooms, and created a discotheque in the crypt. Within four years more than 1,500 people a week were passing through the doors.

He left the Church in 1968 to work as deputy director at Oxfam for two years and started a familiar sounding campaign to make poverty history. He also wrote his autobiography called Who Cares, published in 1971.

In the same year as the book's release he took on the first of his two roles as director of social services in Ealing.

He then moved to Kent County Council in 1974 in a job that spanned 11 years. Such was his impact in transforming the county's care it became the focus of a book by Don Brand titled 'A Study in Leadership - Nick Stacey and Kent Social Services'.

He went on to work at Canterbury Cathedral as well as being a part-time chaplain to Maidstone Prison. In 2005 he was awarded the Cross of St Augustine by the Archbishop of Canterby for his outstanding service.

CYCLING

Cyclopark set for a bright future after positive start

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

IT'S been a challenging but ultimately positive start to life for Gravesend's Cyclopark.

The long-awaited project launched at the end of May and has since seen more than 45,000 visitors through its doors to enjoy the kilometres of racing track and mountain biking trails, BMX tracks and the skate park among other facilities.

It keeps the chief executive of the operating charitable trust, Laurence Tricker, awake at night - but in a good way as he sets his sights on a growth in visitor numbers in the next three years.

"The most interesting feedback we get from people is they didn't realise how much we had to offer," he said. "We are a bit of a hidden gem or a sleeping giant if you like.

"The real profile will continue to grow. The nearest equivalent place to us is in Redbridge in Essex - they didn't get a feel for their visitor numbers until the third year.

"Ours might be a slightly different story. The second year we should see significant growth and third year we could see more growth still. Next year will be at least twice as busy with the club rides, I would be happy if we maintained the use of the public rides.

"The opportunities for cyclopark are phenomenal. The spin-off and enthusiasm from the Olympics gives us the opportunity to offshoot on all sorts of things. There's so much we will do if we keep going. It keeps me awake at night, but in a positive way."

Picture: PAUL JERREAT



LEAP: Cyclopark chief executive Laurence Tricker is plotting a growth in visitor numbers for the next two years, while he also hopes to bring in more cycling clubs from around the county

With the facility being outdoors it is ultimately a seasonal venue which has been taken into account in the budget.

"We've written off 60 days to bad weather," he said. "If we are under 2ft of snow, in terms of our business model, we will cope. We are a seasonal venue, but most of the venue should be able to remain open in the winter."

The facility has plenty of plans to attract visitors throughout the festive season, as well as new spinning classes for those rainy days, and a bike shop to open soon. There are also plans to try and bring in more cycling clubs from around Kent to use the facility.

"The clubs are the bit we don't seem to have got quite right," he said. "There are six clubs that use it regularly. Within a 30 minute drive there are dozens of clubs. But they aren't coming here as often as we thought.

"The challenge we have always got is that the road is free. There is nothing else like this for them to make a comparison with.

"If they want to enjoy the countryside that's fine, but if they want to become competitive they can use this."

There is now a full time BMX coach to help beginners taking to the track. That appointment was prompted by three visits by the ambulance to the BMX area in the park's first week.

There are also around 40 schools that use the site for their cycling proficiency lessons and the park's fleet of adaptive bikes for children with learning difficulties.

•For information visit www.cyclopark.co.uk

MOTORSPORT

AutoGP star joins elite club following outstanding year

AUTOGP World Series Champion Adrian Quaife-Hobbs has been recognised for his outstanding performances in 2012 with an award from the British Racing Drivers' Club.

The 21-year-old from Pembury was given the Fairfield Trophy by motorsport legend John Surtees at a ceremony in London.

It's awarded annually in honour of Pat Fairfield - a British driver who lost his life in a crash at Le Mans in 1937 - to a BRDC member for outstanding performance in a season.

Previous recipients of the prestigious award are David Brabham, Anthony Davidson and Paul di Resta.

Quaife-Hobbs won five races, scored 10 podium finishes and secured six pole positions in his debut season in AutoGP.

Alongside clinching the drivers' championship with two rounds still remaining, he was also crowned under-21 champion and helped steer Super Nova International to the teams' title.

"It is a huge honour to be awarded the BRDC Fairfield Trophy for outstanding achievement," he said. "I've had an amazing season in AutoGP World Series, racing with undoubtedly one of the best single seater teams in the world.



AWARD: Quaife-Hobbs in spotlight

"Winning the double in Portugal was without question the highlight of my season in what has been a very special year, and to have those performances recognised is a privilege and immensely rewarding."

He also spent time in Spain this week testing his AutoGP World Series car at a two-day event in Barcelona.

FOOTBALL

Stones boss to trim side following King's arrival

MAIDSTONE United boss Jay Saunders admits Stuart King's arrival at the club means he will have to let one of his forwards go.

Prolific striker King signed at the Gallagher Stadium last week from Folkestone Invicta where the 25-year-old bagged 44 goals in 47 games in the Ryman One South.

It now means Saunders has six strikers on his books, but for the meantime he's reduced to three with suspensions and injuries mounting up. Ian Draycott is injured, Shaun Welford has a three match ban waiting to kick in, while Ade Olorunda is also in the middle of a suspension. Alex Waugh is on loan at Erith & Belvedere.

However, when they're all fit and available Saunders concedes he will have to let one leave the Stones.

"When Ade comes back from suspension Shaun's suspension then kicks in. So when people say we've got too many forwards, I've only got three choices (at the moment)," said Saunders.

"I will need to (let a player go) for the player's sake. I'm not going to be able to keep every player happy. It was always one in and one out. But at the moment with the injuries and suspensions I would be silly to let one go and then be short.

"I was more than happy with the lads I have got, but King became available. He's a good age and his record speaks for itself. He offers us something different."

Picture: LAWRIE PROCTER



CHOICE: Saunders has six strikers

FOOTBALL



BUDGET: Manager Liam Daish has low wage bill

Fleet owners urged to work in partnership to find new investment

THE majority owners of Ebbsfleet United have conceded they are willing to listen to offers for the club - but only if a sustainable plan comes forward.

There have been serious concerns for some time about the long-term financial future of the Blue Square Premier side under the ownership of the web-based venture MyFootballClub.

Its membership, who pay annual fees which support the club, has dwindled since it took over in 2008 from more than 30,000 to around 1,200.

Last week, the Fleet Trust, a fans' group which owns a small percentage of the club, voted in favour of finding a suitable long-term owner to take on MyFC's 75 per cent stake at its AGM.

Vice chair of the FT Emily Connolly said: "There's no major investor ready to ride in and buy the club. There is interest from parties and we continue to talk to them. From time to time we get people saying 'if MyFC weren't here I would invest'.

"What we are trying to say now is that MyFC are prepared to listen to potential investors. If these people are serious, then put down your offer.

"I don't think it's (MyFC) turned out to be what we thought it would be. We do need to patch up the two sides; the trust and MyFC. There's always going to be some kind of divide between us, but we need to work together."

A statement from MyFC said: "MyFootballClub will not be making a written guarantee of relinquishing its shares to an as yet unknown investor. If the Fleet Trust know of a party interested in making an offer to take the majority shareholding in EUFC then we advise that to progress this interest they need to contact the MyFootballClub Society Board to discuss the details of their offer.

"Myfootballclub, as the majority shareholders in Ebbsfleet Utd, will listen and consider serious offers to work with us as owners of the club and, if the right opportunity arose, to take over the ownership of the club if they could demonstrate an ability to develop and sustain the club to a greater degree than ourselves.

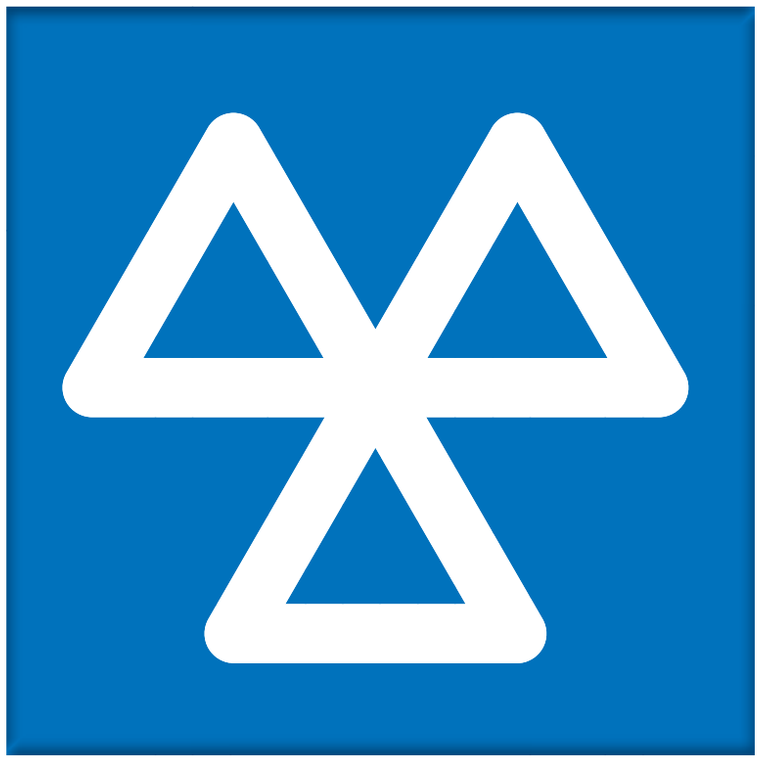
"To this end, any serious offers that include a long-term sustainable plan for Ebbsfleet Utd would be considered by members who would evaluate any such offers with the best interests of the club in mind."

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